

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 29, 2012

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Memory Lane

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Competition

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Record breakers

Soaraway Saxons produce performance of the season

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Man in £525k con is told to repay £1

A CROOKED accountant who swindled £525,000 out of a Stourbridge church and charity to refurbish his home, pay off spiralling credit card debts and help save his failing business, is to repay just £1, a court has ordered.

Stephen Methuen had volunteered as a treasurer and accountant for the Amblecote Christian Centre and the Christian International Relief Mission when he took the cash over six years.

Last month the 57-year-old started a five-year jail term for his crimes – but last week Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that as he had no available assets, and so a nominal offer of £1 was to be paid under the proceeds of crime act.

After the case, Amblecote Christian Centre said while they understood and expected the decision, they found it very sad.

Pastor Adrian Lowe said: "Very little, if any, of the funds will be recovered. Steve is only weeks into his prison sentence with the likely earliest release date not until April 2015, when he will be almost 60. It is our hope that his time in custody leads him to demonstrating true remorse for his crimes."

Pastor Lowe said they would support Methuen's now estranged wife, who he said knew nothing of the crimes.

£22m savings plan criticised

CABINET members in Dudley have been criticised as they plan further council cuts of £22 million.

The proposals, which will see such things as street cleaning and services for the elderly slashed, were debated at a meeting of the Labour-controlled council on Monday. The council says it has to save £10.7m in 2013-14, £4.8m in 2014-15 and £6.3m in 2015-16. Tory Councillor Les Jones said his party would have protected frontline services. "I don't think they've made moves to do so," he added.

MPs DEMAND HELP AS STEEL JOBS LOST

MPs are calling for action after steel giant Tata announced the closure of four sites, including three in the Dudley borough, with the loss of 117 jobs.

Moves to shut sites in Dudley, Kingswinford, Cradley and Wombourne are part of a shake-up that will see 900 jobs go nationwide.

by Heather Large

The Government is now being urged to intervene and support the workers affected by the decision.

In Dudley, 36 jobs will go, while in Kingswinford 18 are to be lost.

In Cradley, 72 out of 82 workers will be transferred to Wednesfield, and a further 53 jobs will be lost in Wombourne.

Housing

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, said she would be seeking assurances that the Cradley site would be brought back into use.

She added: "Otherwise it will go for housing like so many other sites."

Meanwhile, Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire, said he would get in touch with business secretary Vince Cable.

"I will ask Vince Cable what can be done to support those people losing their jobs."

"I've also requested a meeting with one of the directors of Tata UK to see if there is any way they will rethink this decision," Mr Williamson added.

"If they cannot, then we need to ensure the sites are brought back into use for manufacturing as soon as possible."

"I will speak to the chief executive of South Staffordshire Council and to the chairman of the Staffordshire Local Enterprise Part-

nership to see if there is anything they can do to encourage businesses into the site in Wombourne."

The MP added: "But it will be important to speak with Tata to find out what their plans are in relation to making it an employment site as quickly as possible."

A worker at the Pedmore Road site in Dudley, who asked not to be named, said he was "gutted" at the news. He described it as "bad news before Christmas – especially for the lads with families".

Tata, which took over Corus in 2006, says the restructuring is intended to make it more competitive as it copes with a steel market.

Demand has slumped by nearly a third in the last five years, and shows little sign of recovery, as the worldwide downturn continues.

Concern

Paul Steele, Tata's managing director for distribution in the UK and Ireland, said: "We realise this proposal will be of great concern to our employees."

"A consultation process will start as soon as possible."

He added: "The company will do everything it can to assist those people leaving the business."

● Blame – Page 2

Town set to light up for Christmas



Ready for the festivities, are left to right, sponsors Lesley Almond and Mark Cooper, with co-ordinator David Harcourt and shopping centre manager Kelley Dyas

SHOPPERS will be in for a festive treat on Saturday when the lights on Stourbridge Christmas tree are switched on.

There will be live music from the Churches for their Choir, Stagecoach Theatre Group and a ukulele band in Lower High Street.

An extended farmers' market will run in the town centre throughout the day with fresh, local produce and Christmas gift ideas.

Youngsters can be entertained with children's amusements and by fun character Riley Mouse who will make his way through the town.

Families can also see Santa's reindeer and try out a number of fun Christmas crafts in the Rye Market.

Sponsored

Children can visit Father Christmas in a one-day grotto in Victoria Passage, which is being sponsored by Tesco and Bowmer and Kirkland.

The grotto, which runs from 11am to 4pm, will be first come first served, and is free. All children who visit get to take away a small gift from Santa.

Dudley mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram and sponsors Ocean Seafood will switch on the Christmas tree lights at 2.30pm.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We want everyone to know that Stourbridge is very much open for business and would like to thank the sponsors who have contributed so generously to help make this event a success."

Fireworks over ban on display in village

FIREWORKS are flashing in a village after it was discovered that the firm behind a controversial proposed housing development was sponsoring a display.

Hagley Parish Council gave permission to a business group for the fireworks on the village playing fields – but withdrew it after discovering that Cala Homes was chipping into the event.

Cala Homes wants planning permission for 175 properties on part of the 350-acre Hagley Hall Estate, owned by Viscount Cobham.

The scheme, due to be discussed by Bromsgrove planning committee on Monday, is at the centre of a storm of protest from residents, who feel it would change the character of their village.

Alan Knight, chairman of Hagley Business Association and manager of estate agents Walton & Hipkiss, asked the parish council for permission for a fireworks display next Wednesday.

But, after leaflets were distributed saying Cala was backing the display, the parish council withdrew permission. Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said if the plan was approved, the fireworks display might appear to be a celebration for a development which most of the village opposed.

The association offered to remove Cala as a sponsor, but the ban stands. Mr Knight said: "There will be disappointment among villagers."

He denied rumours that his estate agency would be selling homes for Cala.

£5m railway link planned

STOURBRIDGE and Dudley could have a new railway link under £5 million plans to open a passenger line on an existing freight track.

A light rail service from Stourbridge to Dudley incorporating The Waterfront in Brierley Hill near the Merry Hill shops is being planned by engineering company Parry People Movers.

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Tata job losses blamed on fall in demand

THE axing of 900 jobs by Tata, 120 of them in the West Midlands, has been blamed on a slump in demand dogging the industry since the global financial crisis five years ago.

Since then, Tata says demand has fallen 30 per cent. It is expected to fall another 10 per cent this year.

Within months of peaking in 2007, demand for steel from the construction and car industries

slumped and the company had to slash production. The company axed 2,500 jobs nationwide in 2009, but it wasn't enough, and there have been a string of site closures and major job losses since.

At the time the steel company had around 1,000 workers at a dozen sites in the Black Country. After last week's announcement that sites in Kingswinford, Dudley, Wombourne

and Cradley will shut, it will leave just a handful of sites and 750 staff - nearly 600 of them at the main Steelpark site at Wednesfield.

Tata Steel says the move is all about matching production to demand. As a result, £8m will be invested in the Steelpark and 72 jobs created, and operations from the Cradley site will move there. The company, which employs 19,000 in

the UK, says it remains committed to investing to help create long-term stability.

Michael Leahy, general secretary of the Community trade union, said: "We need faster investment in infrastructure programmes and community benefit clauses in UK procurement, just as France and Germany do to support their own manufacturing industry."

Compensation bid by traders over road work

TRADERS are applying for compensation after the removal of traffic lights ended seven months of delays and misery.

They say a £500,000 road work project in Coombs Road and Gorsty Hill Road, Halesowen, caused them to lose money as customers stayed away. The roads were made one-way in April while South Staffs Water and National Grid were carrying out the work. The streets were reopened at the end of last month.

Album is a hit for local rock band

A STOURBRIDGE band's debut album Designed to Be has proved a hit, reaching 23 in the iTunes rock chart.

Fans of Faye played to a packed house when they returned to their home town on the last leg of a promotional tour with a gig at Base Studios, Rufford Road.

Drummer Jack Sidaway said: "It was a great gig and we were all pleased by the turnout."

"It was brilliant to have such a good reception from the area we're all roughly from."

The band members, who are in their 20s and from Stourbridge and Cradley Heath, were recently featured in Front magazine and are in the latest edition of Kerrang.

Their recent tour has taken them to Leicester, Birmingham, Southampton, London and finally, on November 17, to Stourbridge. Album sales will be known tomorrow (Friday).

Supporting bands at the gig included Little Wing, The Fluorescents and Darwin and the Dinosaurs.

But four-way temporary lights remained in place at the junction of Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Dudley Road and Furnace Hill until they were taken down last week.

Business owners complained that customers were put off by the heavy traffic caused by the one-way systems.

Stephanie Cox, landlady of the Bell and Bear pub in Gorsty Hill Road, said trade was starting to pick up again following the completion of the work, which had seen her lose up to £1,500 a week.

Lodged

"I am applying for compensation, but it will not make up for what I have lost," she added.

Paul Howard who runs Our Plaiice fish and chip shop in Dudley Road says he lost around £85,000. He has a lodged a claim for compensation from National Grid.

"It was a long time to have such disruption. Our turnover had been up between Christmas and Easter and then they started the work and our takings dipped," he said.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said she believed all of the work had now been completed.

She added: "All the traders have received information packs about how to apply for compensation for lost trade. They are determined on a case-by-case basis."

Pupils box up gifts for needy



Brier School pupils Joseph Woodfield, Jack Emery, Lewis Richards, Kiaya Robinson, Nathan Harrold and Bethany Dekowski with the shoeboxes

SHOEBOXES filled with goodies will be sent to children in need across the world thanks to pupils at a Kingswinford school.

Youngsters at the Brier School in Bromley Lane have managed to collect enough items to fill 187 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse appeal.

They will be sent to children overseas who would otherwise not get a present on December 25.

Each box is filled with items such as toys, toiletries and much-needed clothing including hats and gloves. The school has been

supported by women from the Park Congregational Church in Dudley who have been knitting hats to put in the boxes.

Parents and friends have also boosted the collections.

Jude Prime, who has organised the collections with colleague Karen Foyne said everyone was delighted to have collected 187 boxes, which have all been decorated.

The school has also been supported by the Unity Church of God in Birmingham and the Harvester pub in Halesowen.

£50,000 cutting machine is stolen

A CUTTING machine worth more than £50,000 was stolen from a haulage yard.

The 68ft-long piece of equipment used to separate soil from rocks, was taken from MVC Haulage, Moor Street, Brierley Hill.

Police say thieves must have used a low loader to remove it.

The theft was discovered by workers as arrangements were made for the red Trommel machine to be moved to another yard.

De Rob Priest said: "This is a very distinctive piece of specialist machinery and we are hoping that someone will know its location."

"The only way this machine could have been moved is by using a low loader - we are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen this machine being moved."

"We are continuing our investigations and we have liaised with auctioneers and businesses across the country to make them aware of the recent theft."

"If anyone can help with our investigations they are urged to call me on 101. Alternatively people can call Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111," he added.

Police can move on job gangs

TROUBLEMAKERS hanging around streets in Stourbridge can now be ordered to move on after a move to give police more powers were approved.

Officers from the Pedmore and Stourbridge East policing team have been granted a dispersal order to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Queensway area of Wollasdale.

The order, which covers Gauden Road, Powlers Close, Hob Green Road, Vickers Walk, Queensway and Sandhurst Avenue, will run for three months from December 1.

It was granted in partnership with Dudley Council.

Police will have the power to move groups of two or more people from within the strictly defined area if they are suspected of causing anti-social behaviour.

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Stricter checks on voucher giveaway

A GIVEAWAY of Christmas shopping vouchers is being launched for pensioners in Kinver – but organisers have warned they will clamp down on gatecrashers from outside the area.

People living outside the South Staffordshire parish, who last year tried to cash in on the festive gift, are told they will not get the vouchers this time.

The vouchers – each worth £6 to spend in Kinver shops – are made possible by grants from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity.

Mr Wrigley, who ran Kinver Sawmills and who founded Kinver Old People's Welfare, died in the mid 1990s, aged 83.

Around 900 vouchers a year are handed out at Christmas by the Old People's Welfare, thanks to £5,000 from the charity, and donations from Kinver Darts Team, a bingo club at the Constitutional Club and Kinver Country Fair.

The vouchers will be distributed at Kinver Senior Citizens Rooms on December 7 at 9.30-2pm.

Treasurer Margaret Rogers said: "No-one will be given a voucher without being able to prove that they pay their council tax to South Staffs District Council."

Care home earmarked for closure

A CHILDREN'S care home in Halesowen has been earmarked for closure by council bosses. South Acre, in Howley Grange, will shut under plans approved by Birmingham City Council.

The authority wants to close five of its 17 children's homes as part of a move towards placing looked-after children in family settings.

South Acre provides accommodation for young people with challenging behaviours.

Staff and unions were consulted on the plans during the summer. Speaking at the time, Councillor Brigid Jones, cabinet member for children and family services said: "For the vast majority of looked-after children, it is far better that they grow up in a family environment."

Church gets £15,000 to help pay for revamp



Lliffe Attwood at the church

A CHURCH in Lye is being given a five-figure facelift in a bid to improve facilities for worshippers and community groups.

The United Church in Upper High Street has been awarded £15,000 from The Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust towards some of the work.

The project which is costing just under £80,000, includes upgrading the heating system and repairing and insulating the roof. A lift has also been installed.

Facilities for disabled people are also being fitted at the church, which is open to Methodist and United Reformed denominations. About 50 people attend the weekly services but the

church building can be used by up to 200 people each week. It is used for two luncheon clubs, coffee mornings and art classes.

The building is also used by a dance school, karate club and the Boys and Girls Brigades.

Church treasurer Lliffe Attwood said members were very grateful for the grant.

Premises

"The roof was leaking and had no insulation so it was a real mess. But now it has been fixed.

"We've had a lift put in and after Christmas the builders are coming back to put in a unisex, disabled toilet.

"We are really pleased this work is being

carried out. The church is not just used on Sundays, it is used every day of the week," she added.

The church, which has raised the rest of the cash it needs, has been based in its current premises, which was once the Liberal Club, since 1979.

The Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust was established in February 2001 in conjunction with Ibstock Brick Limited and Cory Environmental Ltd, and funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

To date it has supported 250 projects and funding totalling £4.3million has been approved.

Council gets £1.8m to keep its weekly bin collections

DUDLEY Council has been awarded £1.8million of government funding to continue weekly bin collections and increase recycling services across the borough.

The local authority is one of 85 around the country which have had their application for the cash approved by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Bosses plan to use the money on extra vehicles, boxes, bags and staff in order to roll out the plastic bottle and cardboard recycling trial to all households in the borough.

The trial, which runs at 11,000 households, has an average take-up rate of 83 per cent and has resulted in a 68 per cent rise in the amount of material collected.

The funding will also enable the council to continue its weekly household waste collection service for at least another five years, to provide recycling collections for schools, and to look at ways of encouraging residents to recycle more.

The expanded recycling collection schemes will be rolled out from next spring and the process is expected to take up to 18 months.

Successful

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "I'm delighted that we have been successful in this bid.

"It will enable us to roll out our popular cardboard and plastic bottle recycling trial and retain the weekly waste collection service."

Residents can still recycle cardboard at the household recycling centre in Stourbridge until they receive their new collection and plastic bottles can be taken to a number of sites in the borough. For details see www.dudley.gov.uk or call 0300 555 2345.



Adam Lang celebrates with his pies and sausages at Langs of Wollaston Butchers

Butcher Adam's sizzling success

BUTCHER Adam Lang cut a swathe through the efforts of his rivals in a national pie and sausage making competition.

And the crowning glory of his Stourbridge butchery's eight wins at the English Winter Fair at Staffordshire County Showground was a beef stew pie, made to his mum's wholesome recipe.

All eight products entered by Langs of Wollaston's won their categories, but his speciality, Grandma Lang's beef stew pie, won the best in the show.

"It's got beef, parsnips, carrots, potatoes, swede, leeks, and a pinch of this and that, which has to remain secret," said Adam, aged 35, who runs the shop with his father, Peter, and fiancée Michelle Westworth.

"I grew up on my mum's delicious stew and decided to make it into a pie. I'm big time proud of our performance in this show. We've won medals before, but this time we had a clean sweep."

Running closely behind the beef stew pie, with 99.5 points, was Adam's Christmas Cracker pie, which layers turkey breast with sausage meat stuffing, ox tongue and a halo of cranberry sauce, topped with pork pie meat.

NEWS in brief

Zoo pair pass with distinctions

TWO Dudley Zoo keepers passed first year exams in looking after animals, with flying colours.

Neil Flockhart received 10 distinctions and Cerys Grove six distinctions, one merit and three passes in the Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals national tests.

Zoo registrar and research coordinator Dr David Beeston, who is also regional coordinator for the course, said: "We take the training of our staff very seriously."

Experts issue diabetes alert

FOUR in five people at a health awareness day in Stourbridge were warned they were at risk of developing diabetes. Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Club organised the event at Holy Trinity Church hall in Amblesote. Visitors completed questionnaires so that Diabetes UK assessors could rate their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Expert Liz Corrigan gave a presentation on the causes, effects, symptoms, treatments and ways of preventing the condition.

Mothers turning to breastfeeding

A GROWING number of mothers are taking up breastfeeding, research suggests.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre said that in 2010, 81 per cent of new mothers in the UK started to breastfeed their child from birth, a rise from 76pc in 2005.

Mothers are also breastfeeding their babies for longer.

Museum to host workshop fun

A CHRISTMAS workshop will be held at Walsall Leather Museum from 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm on December 1.

Youngsters will get the chance to make their own festive decorations.

The following Friday the museum will host a festive evening of poetry and drama from 7pm. Contact the museum on 01922 721153 for tickets.

Club's Burns night

STOURBRIDGE Cricket Club is hosting an evening of traditional Scottish fare. The club hosts its Burns Night celebration on January 25. Tickets are £13.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THURSDAYS In The Park, by 62-year-old Hilary Boyd, is a tale of sex for the over-60s and has become a sudden sensation. It had to happen. Our big, cosseted, super-confident Babyboomer generation has yelled about its sex life from the rooftops for the past 50 years, so why stop now? The big difference is that back in the 1960s you lit the candles, switched the music on low, slipped into the kitchen for that bottle of champagne and va-va-voom. Half a century on, you light the candles, switch the music on low, slip into the kitchen, can't remember what you're doing there and decide to dismantle the thermostat on the boiler. Exciting, but how do you turn it into a novel?

ON the four days preceding last Wednesday, the forecast was wall-to-wall sunshine across England. Come Wednesday, the heavens opened. It was the sort of downpour you could probably have predicted with a pine cone and a bit of seaweed yet the professionals, with billions of pounds' of satellites and computers, missed it.

MEANWHILE, global warming appears to have cooled down. Met Office figures show temperatures dropped during 2011 and 2012 from the high levels of 2010. It goes without saying that the experts dismiss this as "statistically meaningless." It only becomes meaningful when the temperature goes up.

UNDETERRED by the weather, Mrs Rhodes and I wrapped up warm and strolled into town, pausing for light entertainment at our local ford which was full and foaming and too much for some drivers to resist. It is one of the eternal mysteries of life that a man (rarely a woman) will risk £20,000 of car in a ford rather than make a short detour. Sure enough, a BMW was up to its axles, the owner very red-faced.

ONE of the great myths of our time is that if developers are allowed to cover the Green Belt with houses and factories, Britain's economy will boom again. Bunkum. The Town & Country Planning Act which created the Green Belt, has been with us for the past 65 years. In that time, Britain has been through both booms and busts, which suggests that the Green Belt is not a big factor in the economy. It is, however, a huge factor in making this country a decent place to live. And when David Cameron announces he will limit the right of citizens to ask for judicial reviews of controversial plans, alarm bells should ring. The Green Belt made Britain pretty when it had a population of 50 million, keeps it comfortable with 60 million and is the only thing that will make it bearable if our leaders in Whitehall are stupid enough to let it rise to 70 million. If we lose the Green Belt we lose the England we knew.

THIS little announcement is tucked away in this month's statement for my credit card: "From your next statement the minimum payment on your credit card will be rounded up to the nearest pound." Multiply that a few million times and it's a very nice little earner.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plea for help in hunt for missing man

POLICE are appealing for help in finding a missing man from Dudley.

Ronald Evans, 59, was last seen by his sister on October 28 when they visited a crematorium to pay their respects to their brother who died just weeks before.

Mr Evans was reported to police as a missing person on November 13 and West Mid-

lands Police have been searching for him since then.

Police said the family and friends of Mr Evans were extremely worried and were pleading for people to help with police efforts to look for him.

Mr Evans, a recovery lorry driver, is white, 5ft 11ins tall, with blue eyes and grey hair but bald on top.

He speaks with a Birmingham accent and smokes.

Pc Stella Biggs of Stourbridge police station said: "Like Mr Evans' family, we are concerned for his welfare as he hasn't made contact with them for some time now, and this is most unlike him. We want to know that he is safe and well."

Insp John Bostock of

Dudley police added: "We are making regular checks with people who know him and colleagues in other forces who may be able to help in our search."

Anyone with information about Mr Evans or his whereabouts as asked to call police on 101, or the independent charity, Missing People, on 116 000.



Ronald Evans

Pair are fined for the theft of metal

TWO young men who were caught loading stolen metal into the back of a van have been fined £80 each.

Wayne Abbotts and William Totney were spotted by a police community support officer on November 4 in a field opposite Morrisons at Kingswinford.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard the pair had stolen the 14 metal sheets, valued at £1,000, from British Gas.

Andrew Wakeman, defending the pair, said they were walking when they were stopped by a man in a van who offered them work.

He added: "They had not gone out looking for work and they became aware that the work was wrong at a later stage."

Abbotts and Totney last week pleaded guilty to theft.

Mr Wakeman said: "While they accept that metal theft is an area of concern at the moment, it was not theft on a grand scale."

The court was told Abbotts, aged 20, of Elm Green, Brierley Hill, and Totney, aged 21, of Beddow Avenue, Coseley, were both on Jobseekers' Allowance and Abbotts lived at home with his mother.

They were told to pay £65 costs and a victim's surcharge of £15.

Appeal to traders over fair

A WOMAN from Halesowen is ready to rock and roll with a special Christmas fair - and is appealing for more vintage traders to join in.

Strictly Jitterbug will be offering free dance classes at the event and the Jailhouse Rock band will entertain.

But organiser Carolyn Williams is despairing after finding only a handful of traders specialising in vintage goods to take stalls for the fair.

The Vintage and Craft Fair will take place at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall on December 22 and it is hoped that around £500 of the takings will be split by a breast cancer charity and Sunfield children's home at Clent.

Anybody interested can contact Carolyn on 07830 369201.

Residents fail to stop quarry recycling plan

BRICKS will be crushed and recycled at a Kingswinford quarry after a controversial development was given the go-ahead, despite opposition from residents.

People living near Ketley Quarry have been locked in a dispute with the owners for more than three years over complaints of noise and heavy traffic. They claim the problems will be made worse if a recycling unit is created. A 1,200-name petition was handed to Dudley Council's development control committee against plans to crush and recycle bricks on-site.

Google's web tips offer for bosses

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is co-hosting a free workshop tomorrow (Friday) to help local businesses.

The Google workshop at Ruskin Glass Centre will offer advice to businesses on how to improve their web presence, boost traffic and increase business.

Ms James said: "I am delighted that we have been able to invite this national initiative to our area. Their expertise will be of real benefit to small businesses."

"A successful online presence can be a vital tool for businesses in Stourbridge and successful small businesses mean a strong local economy. I hope that as many businesses as possible take advantage of the expertise on offer."

Dan Cobley, managing director of Google UK said: "We hope that local businesses will take advantage of this free session to understand how important the internet is to their growth."

The workshop is from 3-4.30pm. Book online at <http://www.gbbo.co.uk/live>

But the plans were approved last week. Ward councillor Patrick Harley said: "Approving this plan is condemning Kingswinford residents and businesses to misery on a daily basis."

Bosses at quarry owners Hinton Perry and Davenhill insist they have always addressed complaints from residents and have co-operated with council officials.

But residents claim lorries waiting to enter the site are causing long tailbacks and blocking the pavements.

Angry

The firm was warned by council chiefs earlier this year when lorries were caught entering the site before 7.30am. Locals say this new development will make the situation worse.

Ketley Road resident Shirley Goodwin said: "Surely there's more sense in having a recycling facility far away from residents."

A report to the council's committee said: "The application for the recycling and re-use of secondary aggregates is linked to the restoration and phasing proposals for the future beneficial use of the site."

It goes on to say there should not be an adverse impact on traffic or noise for residents. Part of the application is for screening off the site to cut noise.

Pupils get planting for Jubilee



The mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, with mayoress Michelle Mottram, at the park

HUNDREDS of trees have been planted in a Wordsley park to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

Children from schools across the borough mucked in as green-fingered gardening gurus for the day at King George V Park, off Lawnswood Road.

The children and their volunteer parents helped plant 420 trees which were provided by the Woodland Trust in honour of the Queen Elizabeth II's milestone.

It was then left to mayor of the borough

Councillor Melvyn Mottram to plant a special Royal Oak tree to round off the event.

It was the first celebration event organised by the newly-formed Friends of Wordsley Park 2012. Its publicity officer Geoff Paddock said: "It was out very first event so that's a proud moment. We were very pleased with how it went and wanted to thank all of the children, parents and the mayor and mayoress for turning out."

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Merry Hill in slip down the rankings

THE Merry Hill shopping centre has slipped one place in a league table of the UK's most attractive shopping centres.

Merry Hill ranks eighth in Trevor Wood Associates' Going Shopping 2013 - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres.

The guide ranks the UK's top 500 shopping centres on their overall attractiveness to customers, based on factors including their size, tenants, weekly footfall and other facilities.

Merry Hill has slipped from seventh in 2011 following the opening of the new Stratford City shopping centre in east London which is ranked number one, taking over from the Metro-Centre in Gateshead, which is now third.

Other centres in the West Midlands in the report include the Bullring in Birmingham, which has remained 14th; Telford shopping centre which fell one place to 19th and Wolverhampton's Mander shopping centre which slipped eight places to 75th.

Boots is now rated as the leading tenant in UK shopping centres, climbing from third place in the table in 2011 replacing Clinton Cards, which dropped from top to 17th position.

Jazz raises £1,200 for charities

A JAZZ night went with a swing at Hagley Community Centre to raise £1,200 for Birmingham Children's Hospital and other charities.

The event, hosted by Stourbridge Rotary Club, featured Bev Pegg and his Good Time Jazz Gang.

It brings the total raised by similar events and the annual Bev Pegg Cowboy Band nights to £21,699 since 1998.

The jazz night, on November 10, was a sell-out evening.

Besides Bev, the performance featured Zoltan Sagi, Tony Pirkin, Martin Veasey, Roger Heeley, Len Thwaites and Ken Wright.

"Thanks must go to The Rotary Club of Stourbridge who organise this with wonderful efficiency," said Bev.

Colleges land £6.4m in government grants

THREE colleges in the Dudley borough are celebrating winning a chunk towards building projects worth more than £16 million - announced during a visit by Government minister Vince Cable.

Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen Colleges aim to attract more students thanks to the schemes, to which the Government has pledged a total of £6.4m.

Business Secretary Mr Cable announced the investment during a visit to Dudley College last week.

He said: "These projects will transform the learning environment for thousands of students in the West Midlands, providing

them with state-of-the-art facilities and modern resources that will help them reach their potential. Addressing gaps in skills is an important part of our industrial strategy.

"This initiative is another example of how government is working in long-term partnership with industry to give them more confidence to invest, hire and grow."

At Dudley College, an Enhanced Renewal Grant of £2.2m will cover a third of the £6.6m cost of a new engineering building - known as the Dudley Advance scheme - in Priory Road.

The centre will have a heavy emphasis on the development of science, technology,

engineering and maths. Principal Lowell Williams said: "It's great news for local industry, the college and Dudley itself."

Stourbridge College has won a £2.3m grant towards a £3.4m health and social care building.

Delighted

Existing accommodation for the 300 students on health and social care, early years and uniformed public services courses at the Hagley Road campus will be refurbished and an extension built.

Assistant principal Gill Coldicott said: "We are delighted we have been successful

in securing the grant, which will ensure we have an excellent centre."

Halesowen College has attracted a £1.9m grant towards its £5.9m teaching and learning accommodation, including provision for animal care, business and tourism courses.

It also provides accommodation for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The three Dudley colleges are among seven in the Midlands that have won a total of £15m towards £36.5m of projects through the Skills Funding Agency as part of the third phase of the Enhanced Renewal Grant.

Neighbours are praised for helping family in fire drama

A MOTHER OF THREE has thanked neighbours who helped save the lives of her children when a fire broke out at her home.

Catherine Keenan Williams also praised members of the community who have provided children's clothes and raised money in the aftermath of the fierce fire in Halesowen.

The 36-year-old said she was still living a nightmare as she relived the moments she was helped from her home with her children Caitlin, aged five and three-year-old Alex.

Her eldest son Samuel, seven, was staying at her mother Elizabeth's house nearby when the fire took hold last week.

Catherine and her two children were rescued at the house in Elizabeth Road by neighbours Dave and Josh Burford.

The window cleaners put a ladder up to a back window at the house and led them to safety.

Smoke damage has left the home uninhabitable. It is boarded up and council workers will assess the damage.

Grateful

Catherine said: "The community have been fantastic and I can't thank them enough for what they have done for us all."

"Dave and Josh were wonderful. I can't believe how brave they were to help us. I'll always be grateful to them."

"It has been a nightmare but my friends and family have been so supportive and have given me a lot of strength."

Neighbours donated clothes to the family and regulars at the Old Queen's Head pub in Birmingham Street, Halesowen, have started a fundraising drive.

● A man, aged 36, arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life, has been bailed.

Chocobeer is a hit with real ale fans



Drinkers flock to sample some of the beers at the Dudley Winter Ales Festival at Dudley Town Hall

PUNTERS enjoyed drinking chocolate with a difference at this year's Dudley Winter Ales Fair.

The chocolate-flavoured beer was lined up alongside traditional ales, ciders and wines for the three-day festival at Dudley Town Hall, in St James's Road, last week.

The ale, called Chocobeer, was crafted by Staffordshire brewery Envile Ales and master chocolatier Louis Barnett.

Louis, aged 21, started his own chocolate making business when he was 12 in Kinver, near Stourbridge, and now exports his Chokolit around the world.

He struck a deal to work on his idea of creating a chocolate-flavoured beer when meeting Envile Ales director Jerry Hedges.

Chocobeer is a dark porter ale with a caramel, fruit and roast malt taste together with a rich chocolate flavour.

"There are chocolate ales on the market but none of them really taste of chocolate," said Louis.

"Chocolate is oil based and oil and water are never going to mix in the brewing process. We've developed a special technique so you get a wonderfully strong taste of chocolate with the beer."



Enville's head brewer Tony Garrington, Jerry Hedges and Owen Lawson with chocolatier Louis Barnett

NEWS

in brief

Three arrests in police operation

THREE people were arrested in an anti-burglary operation on main routes between Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

Police used automatic number plate recognition in Kidderminster, Norton and Hagley. Suspect vehicles were then stopped by officers last Wednesday.

One of the vehicles seized in Kidderminster was a van with a supermarket trolley in it.

Three men were arrested and later charged with receiving stolen goods. Another driver was given a fixed penalty notice for possessing cannabis.

Campaign to end domestic violence

WEST Mercia Police are supporting the 16 Days of Action campaign to end violence against women.

The white ribbon campaign began on Sunday. Wearing the ribbon is about challenging the acceptability of violence by getting men involved and helping women to break their silence.

West Mercia Police are also using the campaign to highlight domestic violence protection orders.

DS Sharon Avery said they were immediate and were used to help protect victims.

Youngsters' art goes on show

YOUNG people from Stourbridge will complete their journey into art with a public exhibition of their work next month.

Twelve youngsters aged 13 to 16 have been exploring art in its various forms since the summer and will conclude by creating an interactive exhibition at the Ruskin Glass Centre, in Wollaston Road, Stourbridge, on Saturday, between 10am and noon.

Craft showcase

A CRAFT fair at Art Space in King Street, Dudley, on December 6 will showcase handmade items including glass jewellery, textiles, jams, chutneys and aprons. Forge Forward and Artspace Dudley are organising the event, from 5.30 to 9pm.

Bazaar invite

A WINTER bazaar will take place in Cradley on December 1. It will run from 12pm-2pm at Cradley Sports & Social Club in Colley Lane. There will be a Santa's grotto. Admission is free.

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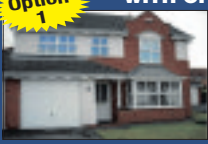
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NEWS

Aidan saw the beauty in life, says grieving mother

THE mother of a teenager, who died on a football field at school, has paid tribute to her son as someone who always saw the beauty in life.

Tivdale youngster Aidan Nisbett, aged 15, collapsed while playing football at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy on November 16 and died later in hospital. His mother Jackie Muir paid tribute to her happy son. She said: "Aidan was such a kind, happy, smiling person who always had a smile for everyone. He always saw the beauty of life and lived it to the max."

She added: "He was a great friend and a great son. He was caring, loving and loyal, with a great sense of humour."

"He had everything a good person has and will always have a place in our hearts."

The principal of the Lower City Road, school has also paid tribute to the "keen sportsman", and friends have expressed their grief by laying flowers and lighting candles at the school.

His friends have also tweeted, to pay their respects.

The youngster was playing football at an after-school club when he collapsed.

Aidan Nisbett

Park's new cycle racks

CYCLE storage racks are being installed at Claregate Playing Fields in Wolverhampton.

Councillor Barry Findlay, who represents Tettenhall Regis, said: "The cycle racks are being moved from another council facility where they are not required. This means there is no cost."

Chipping in to help pets



Steven Alcock, aged 43, from Colley Gate, with pet dog Harvey and deputy chief inspector, Julie Lyons of the RSPCA

ANIMAL lovers got their pets micro-chipped for free at an action day at a Dudley community centre.

Dudley Council teamed up with the RSPCA to stage the event, which took place at Lye Community Centre, Crosswalks.

Dog and cat owners were invited to take their pets along. People were encouraged to make a donation to the charity.

Experts were also on hand to give general pet care advice to owners and answer any questions.

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NEWS

Welcoming grotto



Santa and his helpers, Jessica Wise, Louise Hampton and Nicky Sendall, get their skates on with Kidderminster figure skater Marie Keeland and her young son Jordan SNOW, cheeky elves, reindeer and ice skating will welcome youngsters to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley.

There will be a Santa's Grotto every day until Christmas Eve and an animated film telling the story of Elbow, a loveable elf who saves Christmas.

It features stereoscopic 3D visuals, wind and snow effects, and "elf dust" as Elbow tries to save Santa's presents from bad elf Fumble. An outdoor ice skating rink is available at the centre until January 6.

The grotto is on the lower mall by Debenhams.

19 banned as blitz at Merry Hill continues

NINETEEN people have been banned from the Merry Hill shopping centre since a new crackdown on troublemakers began almost three weeks ago.

by Heather Large

Police launched the zero tolerance scheme to reduce anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and other crimes around the complex. They want to create a safer environment for shoppers.

They said a total of 19 shoppers had now received bans ranging from three months to a year after being caught by officers using head-cams and security teams.

The crackdown also aims to tackle cheque or card fraud, assaults against business employees and alcohol related violence.

Sgt Andy Springthorpe said: "We will be increasing

patrols on the run up to Christmas and sharing information about offenders with the security and shops in the centre.

"A no-tolerance approach will be used by officers and security staff to ensure that the Merry Hill Centre continues to be a low crime area.

"The head-cams will allow us to film areas such as the bus station, giving us an extra pair of eyes to help us prevent incidents before they happen".

Among the first to receive bans was a 23-year-old man from Bilston, who was excluded for 12 months.

Jazz night hits right note

A JAZZ night went with a swing at Hagley Community Centre raising about £1,200 for Birmingham Children's Hospital and other charities.

The event, hosted by Stourbridge Rotary Club, featured Bev Pegg and his Good Time Jazz Gang. It brings the total raised by similar events and the annual Bev Pegg Cowboy Band nights to £21,699 since 1998.

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MEMORY LANE



Pelsall Hall Sanatorium was for people recovering from TB. Here patients and staff are pictured in the grounds



The Charles family pictured at the rear of Pelsall Hall, the family home from 1785 to 1917



The Charles family enjoyed playing croquet on the lawn at Pelsall Hall, their home for generations



A view of Pelsall Hall from the rear garden

Village's oldest home has a healthy history

THE rich history of the oldest building in Pelsall is celebrated with the launch of a new book by local historian Annita Bates.

The writer recently led a tour of Pelsall Hall Residential Home, on Paradise Lane, joined by Walsall Mayor Dennis Anson and around 30 other guests, as she walked and talked through the building's history.

The hall was first built as a manor house in 1616 and documents show that in 1622 it belonged to a Mr Dickenson of Pelsall and a Mr Sparrey of Kings Norton.

For six years it was then owned by a George Cradock who had been given it in 1637 by his mother, Elizabeth Cradock of Caverswall Castle. When Mr Cradock died of smallpox his wife Dorothy inherited the property. Dorothy Cradock married and her husband, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, took part ownership of the manor.

The couple also owned extensive

by Will Ackermann

areas of land around Pelsall, including the common lands.

In 1752 the Hussey Family of Little Wyrley moved into the property, before selling it in 1785 to Isaac Charles. It remained in the Charles family for generations, right up until 1917, when it was sold to Walsall Health Authority.

Sanatorium

The Charles family held many fundraising events at the hall, including a tea party in 1877 where there was a marquee, a brass band, dancing, songs and speeches with tea.

Before the First World War plans had been made to open a sanatorium in Walsall for sufferers of tuberculosis, and in 1917 Pelsall Hall was bought from the Charles family and converted into such a facility. It officially opened on October 23, 1918, just a few weeks after the end of the war.

The sanatorium had 37 beds – 17 for men, 14 for women, and six for

children. Men and women were housed in open-walled blocks situated in the grounds of the hall, while the children's wards were within the main house.

The facilities were improved in 1924 when the old hall was converted into a dining and recreational area with a snooker table and a wireless.

By the mid-1930s patients were being cared for at a purpose-built hospital in Goscote. Patient numbers at Pelsall fell.

As a result, the sanatorium closed in 1950 and the hall became Walsall Nurse Training School.

It was not until 1988 that it became a care home for the elderly, run by Greensleeves Homes Trust, before undergoing a £3.5m refit in 2008.

Ms Bates' book, 'The Charles Family and Pelsall Hall', from which the photographs on this page are taken, is on sale in the Walsall branch of Waterstones and in Balloons, on High Street, Pelsall, from the beginning of December.



John Smith Charles and his wife Annie Snowdin Charles moved into Pelsall Hall in 1871



Pelsall Hall Sanatorium, which closed to patients in 1950



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COMPETITION

Chocolate ticket treat is a real gift

CADBURY World's Christmas celebration weekends have been launched and Chronicle readers have the chance to win one of 10 family tickets.

Weekends will be packed with seasonal fun including a pantomime production of Aladdin, complete with puppets, songs and plenty of laughs.

Elsewhere, children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto and receive a free small gift.

You can also visit the Cadbury Café and buy festive fare from the Yuletide Menu, as well as limited edition handmade seasonal chocolates from the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop.

In addition to these seasonal activities you will also have the chance to journey through Cadbury World's 14 amazing zones.

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Cadbury World will put a smile on even the grumpiest Scrooge's face!

The attraction's family ticket allows two adults and two children to experience the celebration weekends' fabulous festivities, guaranteed to leave you wishing it could be Christmas every day.

For more information visit www.cadburyworld.co.uk



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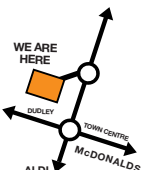
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Fair appeal to traders

A HALESOWEN woman is ready to rock and roll with a special Christmas fair – and is appealing for more vintage traders to join in.

Strictly Jitterbug will offer free dance classes at the event and the Jailhouse Rock band will entertain.

But organiser Carolyn Williams says only a handful of traders specialising in vintage goods have agreed to take stalls.

The Vintage and Craft Fair will be at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall on December 22 and it is hoped that £500 of the takings will be split by a breast cancer charity and Sunfield children's home at Clent.

Anyone interested can contact Carolyn on 07830 369201.

Brave little Charlie is best man for parents' wedding

THERE wasn't a dry eye in the house when the parents of a seriously ill two-year-old boy tied the knot – with him at their side as best man.

Charlie Harris Beard brought tears to the eyes of the 300-strong congregation as he drove his remote control model car down the aisle, with the rings on a cushion on the bonnet.

His parents Joe Beard and Fiona Harris, both 30, married at St Mary and All Saints Church in Kidderminster in a service described as "spontaneous with

no time for rehearsals", by the Rev Canon Owain Bell.

The couple decided to marry days after being told that doctors in this country had no cure for Charlie, who has leukaemia.

Guests clapped as the toddler, in a smart suit, made his way down the aisle. His father Joe said before the service it seemed "only right to have my best mate and my son as best man". He shared his duties with his godfather Phil Senior.

Seventeen-year-old singer Danielle Bishop sang You are My Sunshine during the service and Mr Bell said "people had

felt their hearts touched" and told the couple "the community had put their arms around them with support, fundraising and prayers".

Later, Fiona said: "I was overwhelmed – but the fact that we've been in church makes me hope that God is going to make a miracle happen."

Charlie suffers from two kinds of leukaemia and his parents are holding out hope of news from Birmingham Children's Hospital on whether there might be treatment available in America that could save his life.



Fiona and Joe, with their children Ellie and Charlie

Ballet date at town hall

THE Ballet Cymru's version of Shakespeare's The Tempest will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday.

Ariel, the fleet footed spirit of the air, Caliban, the deformed and twisted slave, Prospero, the talismatic magician, Miranda and Ferdinand the star-crossed lovers, all collide in a story rich in subtlety and humour, set on an enchanted isle and peopled by magical beings.

Since 1986 the company has aimed to present a high standard of classical ballet in an unpretentious and original way.

Each year it tours to around 50 venues throughout the UK, with 10 dancers.

Tickets for the Stourbridge show are £16 for adults and £10 for children.

Vintage help to be boost for charity



Hannah Picken, aged 20, of Brierley Hill, ready for the charity vintage tea party

VINTAGE clothes, bags and afternoon tea will be up for a grabs at a vintage tea party to help the Alzheimer's Society.

The event, hosted by Martial Arts Concepts, Hereward Rise, Halesowen, is on December 2, 2pm-5pm, will be held with vintage crockery.

Hannah Picken, aged 20, organised the event. Her grandmother, Gladys McKenzie, lost a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's in March. Miss Picken said: "It was soul-destroying to see someone deteriorate like that over such a long period of time."

"I wanted to do something nice for my family with this event and also try to help people who might suffer with Alzheimer's in the future as the charity needs fund to continue its vital work. They do a great job to help."

Vintage clothes will be provided by Miss Picken's Stourbridge-based design firm Gracy. A tombola has prizes with Cosmopolitan magazine providing make-up, nail varnish and handbags and Sainsbury's gift cards. For information call Miss Picken on 07581 312 813.

Tributes as popular priest dies, aged 82

POPULAR Kidderminster priest Canon James Samuel, who recently celebrated 50 years as a clergyman, has died at the age of 82.

"Canon Jim", as he was known locally, is also being mourned by monks at a French abbey, where he had been made an oblate. Although retired, he was still viewed as a member of the team at the parish of St Mary's in Kidderminster. He died at home after a long illness.

"He was like a stone you threw into a pond – but the ripples were of sheer kindness," said Canon Owain Bell, Canon of St Mary's.

"Canon Jim" was ordained a deacon in 1961 and became a priest the following year. He was Rural Dean of Dudley from 1987 to 1993 and was made a Canon at Worcester Cathedral in 1988.

On September 29 he officiated at a service to mark his 50 years as a priest, held at St Mary's.

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Decision delay an insult to Lenny

THE decision by Dudley MBC to further delay their decision to grant Lenny Henry the Freedom of the Borough is quite amazing.

To state that a working party of five councillors are looking at the criteria and guidelines governing the freedom honour is in my opinion laughable.

For a borough the size of Dudley not to have clearly established guidelines and agreed criteria for making such a distinguished honour on one of its own citizens, is a failure by the council, after all, surely it is not rocket science to agree such a criteria.

Many other councils Wolverhampton

and Sandwell to name but two have recognised established guidelines and criteria and Sandwell in particular have made the award recently.

I lived in Formby and worked in Liverpool for 12 years, and when people knew that I had previously lived in Sedgley, Dudley, they immediately recognised and knew of Dudley.

Not because of the castle; not because of the zoo and not because of the Black Country Museum. It was because of Lenny Henry, and they always referred to it as Dudlaa, because of Lenny's reference and how he pronounced it. I firmly believe

Lenny Henry thoroughly deserves the Freedom of the Borough of Dudley, and must be considered as a worthy recipient. He has never forgotten his Dudley and Black Country roots.

So Councillor Jones and the other councillors please put an end to this shambles of a farce, which at the moment makes you all look nothing but a laughing stock, and resolve this issue without further delay.

I look forward to the council granting Lenny's well-deserved honour pretty soon.

MICHAEL F SAMPSON
Kingswinford

Privilege to watch The Phantom at Ellowes

ON November 17, my friend and I had the privilege of going to see Phantom of the Opera, put on by the members and students of Ellowes Hall Sports College.

It was our first visit but it certainly won't be our last.

In the words of Strictly Come Dancing judge, Craig Revel Horwood, it was fabulous!

All those who took part from centre stage to the most minor part, not forgetting the orchestra who were brilliant, each one gave a 110 percent.

If in the future Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber wishes to seek new talent can I suggest he comes to Gornal's Ellowes Hall. He won't be disappointed.

The only problem he will have is, who can he choose. There is so much talent within this group. Well done to you all.

MRS M MARSH,
Lower Gornal.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

School's production just gobsmacking

As a huge fan of musicals and in particular Phantom of the Opera, I was recently treated to a ticket for a school production of the show on November 14 at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Lower Gornal.

I have never been to a school production before and to be honest did not really fancy it on a drab Wednesday night, however, by the time I got home how differently I felt.

The professionalism and talent on show was truly gobsmacking and in my opinion the quality came close to a show that I've seen in the West End on several occasions. If I had not witnessed the performance personally, I would never have believed a local secondary school could be capable of such a superb production.

The entire cast were fantastic, with all the leading roles played outstandingly. The Phantom was genuinely menacing and at the same time vulnerable and the lovely young lady who played Christine had the voice of an angel and is surely destined for big things. The cast were fully deserving of their rapturous standing ovation as were the orchestra.

In a time when young people get such a bad press at times, I wanted to pass on my congratulations and praise

MR M RUTTER, Broad Street, Kingswinford.

Listen to people of borough on Lenny

I AM so disappointed in DMBC. Why did they ever say Lenny Henry could have the Freedom of the Borough?

I get so frustrated with DMBC and the time it takes for them to make decisions. When they make a decision they get it wrong.

If this council is looking out for our interests, who's looking out for them. Who's giving them advice? Maybe they should just listen to the people of Dudley Borough.

My advice to them is to stop embarrassing themselves and give our Lenny the freedom of the borough ASAP if he still wants it.

My advice to Lenny is to retract his support for Dudley Hippodrome if he wants the freedom of the borough.

That said what really matters is what we the people think.

GARRY SAWERS,
Pensnett.

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REVIEWS

Correct ingredients but Cinders failed to rise to the occasion

Cinderella,
Birmingham Hippodrome

EVERYTHING was there, the usual high standard of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, superb music and delightful costumes but somehow at the Hippodrome performance of Cinderella I didn't have a ball.

I am sure the ballet purists loved it but there just seemed to be that little bit of magic missing. Billed as a Christmas treat and spoken off in similar terms as the wonderful Nutcracker, it just did not seem to be in the same league.

The familiar story was well told and the dancing highlights were many – especially from the Dancing Master (Mathias Dingman) who excelled.

The dainty Cinderella (Elisha Willis) and her Prince (Iain Mackay) could almost not be faulted, although he did have a rather awkward moment with one of the lifts. The two who stole the show were stepsisters Skinny (Samara Downs) and Dumpy (Carol-Anne Millar) who managed to dance brilliantly – even in a fat suit. Their continual spats were a delight to watch.

Cinderella will be at Birmingham Hippodrome until December 9.
Sue Attwater



Elisha Willis as Cinderella and Iain Mackay as the Prince
Picture by Bill Cooper

Project managed Dylan songs well

Dylan Project, Dan Whitehouse,
Robin 2, Bilston

THE Dylan Project is no ordinary tribute band. Steve Gibbons doesn't try to look like the iconic singer and, although there are times when he slips into sounding like him, the group essentially play Dylan's catalogue their own way.

Gibbons on guitar and vocals, bassist Dave Pegg, drummer Gerry Conway, keyboard player Phil Bond and guitarist PJ Wright have a wealth of experience from a lineage including Fairport Convention, Jethro Tull and Pentangle.

They cherry-picked songs from Dylan's Blonde On Blonde with Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands, given an almost comic ballad style with a Gallic undertone. This moved smoothly into I Want You given an upbeat skiffle treatment. The full sound of the band was let loose for Can You Please Crawl Out Your Window with more than a smattering of Latin melodies.

Supporting the Project and on his home turf was Wolverhampton's Dan Whitehouse, who is maturing into an impressive singer/songwriter. Catch Dan at the Birmingham Conservatoire Recital Hall on December 15 with a full backing band. Visit www.dan-whitehouse.com

Danny Farragher

Few words but all the right moves

Some Like It Hip Hop,
Wolverhampton Grand

FUNKY and exciting, dance group ZooNation's mix of B-boying, rap, street and break dancing appeals to a younger audience but there is plenty for all to enjoy.

Set in a fictional city ruled over by a tyrant, Governor Okeke (Duwane Taylor), where women are subdued and segregated, this is a tale of liberation through knowledge and love that leads to the tyrant realising the error of his ways. Despite the dystopian setting, there is a lot of comedy and romance.

The cast were very impressive and though the dialogue was limited, they

were more than able to communicate through their actions. The quality and athleticism of the dance really stood out as dancers back flipped and vaulted across the stage.

In particular Ross Sands and Robert Anker both put in superb performances performing all manner of gravity defying acrobatics.

The main roles of Jo-Jo Jameson (Sarah Richards) and David Davidson (Minica Besson), the cross-dressing women who infiltrate the world of men, represent a role reversal of the movie Some Like it Hot, which this production draws upon. Both female performers put in a superb performance. In the main male role Denny Harwood was also noteworthy.

Even though this is predominantly about dance, it wouldn't be anything without its original musical from DJ Walde, supported by the amazing singers Sheree Dubois, Rohan Pinnock-Hamilton, Sherona Knight, Elliotte Williams-N'Dure and Ross Green. They all lend their amazing talents to the mix of soul and hip hop that is the backbone of this play.

The audience were also treated to a performance of street dance by 22 Wolverhampton children, who had been trained by ZooNation's Teneisha Bonner, to dance along to Maroon 5's, Move Like Jagger. The group from 12 schools had the audience out of their seats and cheering along.

Tom Mason

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PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

BEV 39yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

PAULA 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

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NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 30-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship. WLTm someone with sense of adventure and love for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

HOME alone with no one to cook for my 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-65 for friendship. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things, is fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share lovely friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send **CHAT207** To: 65125. (T&C's below).

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

LOOKING for love, Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possibly LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-45 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTm female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more, food, communication, evenings out, travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067

IAN 60, seeks active Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun, mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399003

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks caring lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679

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CLUB NEWS

History of long-lost mansions

WORDSLEY 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

THE November meeting was opened by chairman for the day, Wendy Lloyd, and then presided over by Ann Birchill. Minutes of the previous group meeting were signed and treasurer Josie Bunn gave a detailed review of the accounts to date.

The Federation Christmas carol service, followed by tea/coffee and mince pies, is on December 8 at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge. 'The Birds' from Brierley Hill Choral Society will be singing.

Members were asked if they were interested in an afternoon concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and a show at Malvern in late spring.

On March 19-23 High Society will be performed at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. The Grand, Wolverhampton, will present Blood Brothers in May.

Wendy introduced Ian Bott who gave a well-researched and informative pictorial presentation entitled Lost Mansions of the Black Country.

Bradley Hall, Kingswinford, built in 1596, Sandwell Hall 1705, Baddeley Hall, luxuriously furnished, the fire damaged Ellows Hall all now gone, but thanks go to people like Ian who keep the history and stories of these grand residences alive.

December 17 will be a bring and share Christmas social with entertainment.

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874

TALL dark, good looking male, 50, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for everlasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833

MP gives report on Parliamentary affairs



Back; Treasurer Betty Griffin, assistant treasurer Ann Rogers, Councillor Patrick Harley; Front; vice chairman Jean Corns and Chris Kelly MP for Dudley South

65th birthday celebrated

THE November meeting saw a moving and fascinating talk by Caroline Nash-Smith and Janet Carleton.

It was entitled 'Life's Treasures' - a company founded by Caroline and her daughter Anita to support ethnically based projects throughout the world.

December 17 will be a bring and share Christmas social with entertainment.

WEST BROM CENTRAL TOWNSWOMEN

Members were impressed by the quality of the goods on offer and were delighted to contribute by buying items. The chairman thanked the

DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

VICE chairman Jean Corns welcomed 42 members and two special guests, MP Mr Chris Kelly and Councillor Patrick Harley to November's open meeting.

Mr Kelly had been speaker on two previous occasions during two-and-a-half-years as an MP and began by assuring everyone he was not planning to take part in I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here - just yet.

He gave an overview of recent events in Parliament, answered any questions and explained the reasoning behind the new Police and Crime Commissioners.

In December members will be entertained by the Haven Singers and by artist Geoff Tristram in January.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. Call 01902 372984.

speakers for their excellent presentation.

On November 5, members celebrated the West Bromwich Guild's 65th birthday with lunch at Sandwell Golf Club. The Christmas afternoon tea takes place on December 10 at 2pm in Moose Hall, Woodward Street.

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Time to Care...

There is a time when most of us will need some sort of care in our daily lives. It is the price that goes with extending our lifespan. The majority of us will benefit from relatives or close friends helping out but for some the only options available are either move out of our home and into a care establishment or pay for care at home. The preference for most of us would be to stay put in our own abode - as the saying goes "there's no place like home". It may not be an age issue, disability and illness can sometimes render day to day living difficult without the help of external assistance.

Stiled Home Services have grown organically from a straight forward home cleaning operation to now providing extensive and individually tailored care packages for people who wish to maintain their independence and quality of life in their own home. Christine and Michelle are the Mother and Daughter combination that have evolved their organisation to a highly reputable and well regarded business in the South Birmingham area.

"We took the first step by extending our cleaning operation to include "Companion" cleaning. This was a result of the feedback we were getting from our staff that

highlighted the need to offer companionship to clients whilst undertaking regular cleaning duties". This was to be the catalyst for the growth that has occurred since 2007.

The whole organisation grew and the experience that both Christine had as an Auxiliary Nurse and Michelle's as a Care Manager were put into practice. The whole emphasis of this business is to give maximum respect to their clients, client's families and friends.

"Our vision was to create a caring organisation that treats people the way we wanted to be treated ourselves. We wanted the staff to become our extended family and the clients the same. People are often very reluctant to admit they need help, they feel they are a burden and many felt that the best way forward was to struggle on alone. What they found was that by delegating some of their daily tasks to us it gave them a consistent routine, a purpose and a return of self-worth that is so often lacking in people who are living alone or at a distance from their relatives.

One important issue is the cost of Home Care which can often be the stumbling block for people considering the service. "Quite often people will qualify for the Attendance Allowance that is available as a Government Benefit (check out www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance)

Michelle pointed out. "Unfortunately up to 80% of people do not know that they are entitled to the Attendance Allowance, many assume that they do not fit the profile but many do. This can make a massive difference as it can pay up to £51.85 per week towards their care costs. One of the first things we do for any new or prospective clients is to guide them through the process".

Caring for an ageing relative is a skilled task. It is made more difficult as memory tends to fade with age and people begin to lose their memories which family members find difficult to cope with. With loss of memory comes loss of self worth. Stiled Home Services Staff are trained specifically to deal this issue. "We can often slow the process down for our clients as we start a Reminiscence Book", says



Michelle. "We record lots of personal information about the client, where they lived, worked, went to school and other important aspects of their life. This helps them keep those memories and more importantly gives our staff key insights into the person they are caring for. This helps to strengthen the bond between the carer and the client"

The most important aspect of releasing relative's time from the care they provide is that they can go back to being the relative. This improves the quality and the length of time they spend with their loved one at a very important part of their life. This can reduce stress all round as the weight of responsibility is shared with Stiled Home Services.

Stiled can provide as little as half an hour a week and upwards. They even undertake night sits for times when clients are unwell or recovering from treatment. "We are flexible in our approach but create routines that our clients become comfortable with. Our staff are the key, they communicate between themselves so that continuity and consistency are not compromised. We do not engage in "call cramming" like some agencies do. We understand our clients sometimes need a bit more time and attention and we allow the staff to pick up on this and deliver the best service we possibly can.

If we were able to arrange our own care now we would undoubtedly ensure we get the best we could. This is the minimum that our loved ones deserve at a time when it counts the most. With Stiled Home Services you can regain peace of mind and improve the quality of the time you have left with your loved ones. Just call for a confidential chat about your circumstances and you'll find the weight being lifted straight away. It's time to care ...

What Their Clients Say.....

"From my initial meeting with the owner of the agency everything has been organised in a caring manner. She attended Social Service Meetings so knew from the start exactly what issues would need addressing. As well as providing morning and evening care the staff takes my parents to appointments and does jobs around the house. Stiled's aim was to stop me being the carer so I could become the daughter again. This aim was fulfilled within days of them taking over. I know my parents are cared for. The peace of mind is wonderful.

Elizabeth F (Daughter of clients)

I have an elderly cousin once removed who lives alone, has psychotic depression and for whom I had the power of attorney. I was at my wits end trying to look after her (I live ¾ of an hour away) and liaise with all the relevant services etc. I first booked Stiled Home Services to come in and do her shopping to at least relieve me of that, my relative was frightened of anyone but me coming in. Since then SHS have taken over her personal care and her housework. Her mental state is now better than it has been for years and she looks forward to them coming each day - they are wonderful.

Alison W (Relative)

Friendly, professional staff who visit my mother twice a week (and occasional weekends) whilst I am at work. They help to give peace of mind that my mother is OK and that someone is there for her while I'm away. Someone for her to talk to and can listen with an interest whilst still keeping a confidence, is sometimes just simply of great benefit to her.

Alan P (Son of Client)



Stiled Home Services WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE NEEDS CARE THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

ABOUT STILED HOME SERVICES

Here at Stiled Home Services our aim is to aid our clients in their own homes to maintain their independence and their feeling of self worth and dignity.

- We offer a fully bespoke home care service which can be tailored to suit all your needs. All our clients have different requirements which is why we are on hand to deal with any situation, from short term to long term.
- Temporary respite care replaces the normal care provided by family members or a friend, giving them a break from the responsibility of providing continual care.
- Short-term care to attend to someone that has been discharged from a hospital and requires care during healing Long-term support and friendship for someone who is beginning to struggle with living by themselves, but who doesn't want to be forced into move to a nursing home.

Personal Care

- Bathing - maintain personal hygiene
- Toilet needs
- Cooking meals
- Mealtime assistance
- Prompt Medication
- Personal appearance to Hair Care

Household tasks

- Housework
- Shopping
- Washing/ironing
- Repairs to clothes
- Collecting pensions, prescriptions
- Paying bills



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Movement

- Mobility around the house
- Getting into and out of bed
- Using simple equipment
- Completing tasks outside of the house - shopping etc.
- Activities throughout the day

Social Connection

- Discussion and Chats
- Remaining in touch with friends and family
- Pursuing interests and hobbies
- Keeping pet animals

STILED HOME SERVICES OBJECTIVES

We offer skilled, trustworthy home care to enable people to live in their home as happily as they would normally. All our clients are treated with maximum respect, not just personally but relatives and friends also. Uphold the human and citizenship rights for our clients and those who visit them.

We will always support the decisions of our clients and advise them should this be needed. At the same time, we like to encourage our clients to participate in outings and activities they will certainly enjoy. Confidential approach is always taken and anything our staff are told is strictly kept to themselves



FAMILY VALUES CLOSE TO THE ONES YOU LOVE

Stiled Home Services 42 Halesowen Road, Halesowen West Midlands B62 9AY

www.stiled-homeservices.co.uk ☎ 0121 421 3733 / 0121 421 3715

NEWS

Church is in danger of looking 'out of touch'

VICARS in the Black Country have warned the Church of England (CoE) faces losing its "honoured place" in society and looked "silly and out of touch" after its General Synod barred women from becoming bishops.

Female clergy said they feared for how the church would be perceived by communities after legislation paving the way for the first women bishops was narrowly rejected by the General Synod.

Bishops based in the region have called the vote against allowing women to do the same jobs as them a "bitter blow".

They insisted there was nothing in the Bible that prohibited having women bishops.

The rules of the synod required that two-thirds (66.7 per cent) voted in favour in each of the three voting groups – bishops, other clergy and laity, or non-clergy.

Consequences

While 90 per cent of bishops and 77 per cent of clergy voted in favour, only 64 per cent of the laity did so, failing by just six votes to reach the two-thirds majority.

The House of Bishops was meeting to "consider the consequences of the vote", a statement on the Church of England's website said.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr John Inge, added: "Very many people indeed will be disappointed and hurt by this decision, not least the huge numbers of women whose ministry as priests has enriched the Church of England immeasurably."

"I want all of them to know, especially those in the Diocese of Worcester, that their ministry is greatly valued by me and many others both inside and outside of the Church."

Deeply saddened by vote

THE vote against women bishops in the Church of England will "look like discrimination", a woman vicar says.

The Rector of Kinver and Enville, Rev Karen Stanton, said she was "deeply saddened" by the vote of General Synod.

The 57-year-old who became the first female rector of the villages at the start of November, said: "I had hoped the Church I love would take the opportunity to do what the Archbishop of Canterbury said – to liberate itself."

"I worry that people who don't attend church will look at this and say 'where's the equality? Where's the justice?' It will look to them like discrimination."

The ex-music teacher said she had confidence the issue would be raised again and, eventually, the push for female bishops would be successful.

She added: "I think when you're discussing huge issues – and this shouldn't be a huge issue but it is – there needs to be some calm-down time because emotions are running high. "One day there will be women bishops but I hope it's not too late for the wonderful female clergy there are."

"I personally know many women who are bishop material. Women



Karen Stanton, the Rector of Kinver and Enville, at her church

bring an enormous wealth to the Church and people recognise that."

She pointed to New Zealand, which has ordained women bishops for decades, saying: "I know this vote is about England but sometimes we should have the humility to look elsewhere."

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NEWS

Mathew smartens up to scoop £10k on Deal

A CARPENTER from Stourbridge held his nerve to win £10,000 on television show *Deal or No Deal* – after he was told by the banker to smarten himself up.

Self-employed carpenter Mathew Churchman snapped up the cash on the Channel 4 television show which was broadcast last week.

Mr Churchman told host Noel Edmonds he married his wife Gemma at Mary Stevens Hospice after the couple moved the wedding forward because his mother was seriously ill.

The couple gained special permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury to get married at the hospice.

And after scooping the cash he said it would pay for a second wedding for his wife. Mr Churchman, who had chosen box 13, was sent away by the banker to smarten himself up.

After starting off the show with his long hair worn loose, a t-shirt and cardigan, after the first advert break



Before – Mathew Churchman



After – smarter look

he came back in a suit and tie with his hair tied back. The £250,000 box was opened quite early on in the game. He turned down offers of £13,000, £1,300, £9,000 and £11,500, and described having to decide the £11,500 offer as "the biggest decision of my life".

But he turned it down and then lost the £75,000. When he was left with 1p,

£10, £50, £35,000 and £50,000, Mr Churchman was made an offer of £10,000. He described it as a "very good offer" and dealt. It turned out he only had £50 in his box.

Noel told him: "You've won absolutely everybody over."

Mr Churchman said he was elated with the win.

Business award for determined Rachel



Rachel Cooper was commended in the Morgan Foundation awards

A MOTHER OF TWO who has battled back against a debilitating illness has been honoured at an awards event to honour entrepreneurs.

Rachel Cooper contracted a condition that attacked the nerves to her brain and now she struggles to walk.

But undeterred, the 34-year-old, of Victoria Street, Brierley Hill, started a business with the help of her partner Brett.

She stocks school uniforms at BNR in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley.

Miss Cooper received a "highly commended" award in the Against All Odds category at the event staged by the Morgan Foundation.

The foundation has been organised by Wolverhampton Wanderers' owner Steve Morgan to honour fledgling businessmen and women.

A delighted Miss Cooper said: "It is wonderful to have received this honour and it's been through the massive support of my family that I've been able to achieve this," she said.



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What's On! Stourbridge

Gearing up for the festive switch-on

THE Christmas lights will be switched on in Dudley town centre on Saturday at 4.30pm. Activities start at 1pm with live music and entertainment.

There will be performances from Ben Jones, Lydia Jones, Alex Darby and Lilley Johnson. Birmingham Performing Arts Academy will also make an appearance.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram will join Father Christmas and sponsors Castle and Crystal for the switch-on.

Magical journey through wardrobe

DUDLEY Little Theatre Company presents the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe from next Wednesday until Saturday at Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road.

The adaptation of the well-loved tale of good and evil takes the audience on a magical mystery tour of the land of Narnia with four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who stumble into this strange land through the wardrobe and encounter the wicked White Witch of the North.

Tickets are available from 01384 872583.

Choral date

STOURBRIDGE Choral and Orchestral Society will host a festive concert on December 8 at St Michael's church, Maynard Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge. Free refreshments will be served during the interval.

Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad on the riverbank

BIRMINGHAM Rep heads to the riverbank this Christmas for a production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of The Wind In The Willows.

Kenneth Grahame's charming tale of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad is brought to the stage at the Crescent Theatre. Birmingham Rep is using the Sheepcote Street venue, just off Broad Street, as one of its venues during the work to incorporate the repertory theatre into the city's new library complex.

Classic 80s rock double

IT will be a dream double bill for fans of 1980s rock at Birmingham's O2 Academy when James bring their tour The Gathering Sound to the city with special guests Echo and The Bunnymen.

The gig on April 25 is the penultimate of a ten-date UK tour, which ends with a big Arena show in James' home city of Manchester. Lead singer Tim Booth said: "We will be re-working old songs and revealing some new steps - expect the unexpected and prepare yourself for more passion than Fifty Shades of Grey."

James, whose hits include Come Home and the classic Sit Down, are releasing a boxed set including all 12 of their studio albums.

This new production by Gwenda Hughes, who has directed 25 Birmingham Rep shows, is aimed at families and is described as a traditional production true to The Wind In The Willows people have known and loved since childhood.

A cast of 16 actor-musicians will bring wonderful characters to life. Playing Toad is Matthew Douglas, a graduate of the University of Birmingham, who recently starred in The Rep's Travesties and The Importance Of Being Earnest.

Wind In The Willows opened last night (Wednesday) and continues to January 19. Tickets are £9 to £28, see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Win tickets to the ultimate pop party



Up-and-coming pop group Lawson, who recently released their debut album Chapman Square, join JLS and many others at the Free Radio Live concert at the LG Arena on December 15

ONE of Birmingham's biggest music events is coming to the LG Arena and Westfield Merry Hill is giving Chronicle readers a chance to win tickets to the big Christmas pop party!

Birmingham-based station Free Radio is teaming up with Westfield Merry Hill for Midlands Free Radio Live - a night of chart-topping entertainment with some of the biggest names in pop.

Free Radio Live will kick off the Christmas party season on December 15 and five lucky readers will receive a family ticket for four people, worth £120, giving access to the event. Merry Hill will itself get the festivities into full swing when it opens until midnight on weekdays from December 17.

Line-up

The Midlands' biggest party will feature JLS, fellow X-Factor stars Leona Lewis, Amelia Lily and most recent victors Little Mix. McFly and popular pop rockers Scouting For Girls will also form part of the line-up, alongside Labrinth and Stoshe.

Also joining the galaxy of stars will be up-and-coming band Lawson, who are no stranger to the Midlands having recently switched on Merry Hill's Christmas lights.

For your chance to see all these top performers in one place, simply answer the following question: Which pop group switched on the Christmas lights at Westfield Merry Hill this year?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Live Competition, Chronicle Series, Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

Usual rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

Tempest dances into town hall

THE Ballet Cymru's version of Shakespeare's The Tempest will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday.

Ariel, the fleet-footed spirit of the air; Caliban, the deformed and twisted slave; Prospero, the talismanic magician; Miranda and Ferdinand, the star crossed lovers, all collide in a story rich in subtlety and humour, set on an enchanted Isle and peopled by magical beings.

Since 1986 the company has aimed to present a high standard of classical ballet in an unpretentious and original way. Tickets cost £16 for adults and £10 for children.

Invitation to civic carol concert

THE Mayor of Dudley is inviting people to get into the Christmas spirit at the traditional civic carol service on December 20.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram, will be at the service at Christ Church, Coseley, from 7.30pm. Dudley Young Voices, VTime and In Sound Company choirs will be helping raise the roof. The service will be led by the Rev Heather Humphrey. Refreshments will be served at Christ ChurchCofE Primary School hall afterwards.

Club holds bazaar

A WINTER bazaar with a Santa's grotto will take place on Saturday from noon to 2pm at Cradley Sports & Social Club, Colley Lane, Cradley. Admission is free.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 1.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson: Bad 25 BBC2, 9.45pm

It's hard to believe that it's over three years ago already that the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, passed away. It's even harder to believe that it's a quarter of a century since he released his seminal album, *Bad*, which spawned five consecutive US number one singles. As a celebration of this latter milestone, Spike Lee directs this insightful documentary which examines the album and its impact. He speaks to those involved in the creation of the album, as well as celebrity fans including Martin Scorsese, Walter Yetnikoff and Kanye West.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. Weather. **5.30** A Question of Sport. **6.00** Pointless Celebrities. Ulrika Jonsson, Rowland Rivron, David Hamilton, Tony Blackburn, Austin Healey, Scott Quinnell, Tim Vine and Karen Taylor take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. The twinkle-toed celebrities take another step closer to lifting the glitterball trophy. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present, with Len Goodman and his panel passing comment. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

8.00 Merlin. The warlock tries to break Morgana's hold over the Queen.

8.45 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. John Partridge reveals the all-important winning numbers.

8.55 Casualty. A mother with Down's syndrome is accused of poor parenting. Dylan's suspicions about Amanda deepen and Tom is confronted by an unwelcome face from the past.

9.45 Live at the Apollo. With Kevin Bridges, Phil Jupitus and Sara Pascoe.

10.15 BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including Manchester City v Everton. National Lottery Update. **12.05** The Football League Show. **12.45** Film: Westworld. (1973) **2.10** Weatherview. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **12.00** Coast. (R) **12.05** Animal Park. (R) **1.05** Film: The Gay Divorcee. (1934) Musical comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.45** Film: Houseguest. (1995) Comedy, starring Sinbad and Phil Hartman. **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening day of the ranking tournament at the Barbican Centre in York. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Great British Food Revival. Gary Rhodes makes the medieval dish pottage as he champions runner and broad beans, while Allegra McEvedy shows there is more to oats than porridge. Last in the series.

7.30 Dad's Army. A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. (R)

8.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild. David Attenborough reflects on environmental changes during his film-making career and the revolution in attitudes towards nature. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, featuring Julian Clary, Ross Noble, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies answering question on the theme of jumpers.

9.45 Michael Jackson: Bad 25. Spike Lee's documentary assessing and celebrating Michael Jackson's 1987 album *Bad*, featuring interviews with Martin Scorsese, Kanye West and Sheryl Crow.

12.00 Snooker: UK Championship. **12.50** Snooker Extra. **2.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.30** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **4.00** Jonathan & Charlotte. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** The Golden Rules of TV.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips.

6.30 Take Me Out. A Cornwall coach driver, a rock musician from Lancashire, a professional rugby player from Cardiff and a Leicester engineer take part. Paddy McGuinness hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor. The acts battle to win places in the final.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the final. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News: Weather. **10.45** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches.

11.45 Film: Serenity. (2005) Sci-fi adventure. **1.45** The Store. ITV News. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscene. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Frasier. (R) **9.25** T4: Frasier. (R) **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: Suburgatory. **11.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **4.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.25** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland.

6.25 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. Former rugby union player Shane Byrne hosts the final dinner party.

6.55 Channel 4 News. **7.30** Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal opens a Willy Wonka-inspired sweet shop, recreating some of the nation's favourite confectionery on a massive scale. (R)

8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man. Technology that makes shopping and cooking easier and more entertaining. (R)

9.00 Film: Star Trek. (2009) The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads the crew into a battle against a vengeful Romulan captain from the future. Adventure, starring Chris Pine.

11.25 Film: The X-Files: I Want to Believe. (2008) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson.

1.25 Film: Steel Magnolias. (1989) **3.25** Hollyoaks. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55** Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. **3.35** Film: The Christmas Gift. (1986) Drama, starring John Denver. **5.20** Film: Our First Christmas. (2008) Family drama, starring Julie Warner.

7.10 Film: Catwoman. (2004) A murdered graphic designer returns to life as a wily avenger with the strength and agility of a cat.

8.55 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Live International Boxing. Tyson Fury v Kevin Johnson. Coverage of the heavyweight bout staged at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast, where both men will hope a victory leads to a world title shot.

11.00 BAMM 11: Alex Reid Returns. Alex Reid v Sam Boo and Jack Marshman v Xavier Foupa-Pokam. Action from the mixed martial arts event staged at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.05** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Jumping off the Auckland Sky Tower. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. The life and legacy of Albrecht Durer. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. Myrtle the turtle receives help in learning to count. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. Kemi goes rollerskating. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. Duncan struggles because of snow. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** Film: Pretty Woman (1990) **11.40** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** Metalworks! - The Blacksmith's Tale **8.00** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** More Old Jews Telling Jokes **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1977 **ITV2** **4.15** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.45** Film: Garfield (2004) **7.25** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **9.40** The Xtra Factor **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **11.30** Take Me Out - The Gossip **ITV3** **3.10** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.05** Brides in the Bath **ITV4** **12.30** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **5.15** England's Greatest Tournament Games **6.10** Cheers. Coach goes on a date. **6.45** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **11.30** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year **E4** **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Darren Brown: The Gameshow **10.05** Film: Scary Movie (2000) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **3.45** True Grit (1969) **6.20** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **9.00** Grash (2004) Oscar-winning drama, starring Matt Dillon and Sandra Bullock. **11.15** The Omen (2006)



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SUNDAY'S TV 2.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Katherine Jenkins

Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins
ITV1, 9pm
 We're told this special one-off featuring the Welsh mezzo-soprano is going to be a showcase of 'spectacular song and dance routines in an evening of glitz and glamour.' Apparently, its producers are stopping at nothing to recreate the old-style, 1940s Hollywood look, with a series of guests they hope will be able to emulate the era. Among those taking part are award-winning quartet Il Divo, girl band Stoochie, Britain's Got Talent finalists Only Boys Aloud and former Strictly Come Dancing champion Tom Chambers.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Fern Britton Meets John Barrowman. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Countryfile. (R) 1.00 Bargain Hunt. 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Call the Midwife. (R) 4.45 Songs of Praise. 5.20 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) 5.50 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 6.20 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the South Downs, discovering how the countryside inspired author Jane Austen and naturalist Gilbert White. 7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance, and JLS sing. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit Aberystwyth in west Wales, where finds include a painting that may be by an important Welsh artist, a kimono with a long history and items of Poole Pottery. 9.00 The Secret of Crickley Hall. Eve receives information about her missing son. Last in the series. 10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Norwich City v Sunderland. 11.15 The Graham Norton Show. With Jake Gyllenhaal, Joan Rivers, Jeremy Clarkson and James May. (R) 12.00 The Sky at Night. 12.20 Film: The Two Mr Kissels. (2008) 1.45 Weatherview. 1.50 Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) 2.20 Holly City. (R) 3.20 Operation Iceberg. (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) 12.30 International Rugby Union. 1.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship. 5.30 Flog It! (R) 6.30 Fawcett Towers. The death of a guest leads to all manner of mayhem as Basil tries to conceal the corpse from the hotel's other occupants. Guest starring Geoffrey Palmer. (R) 7.00 Best of Top Gear. Further highlights from the show's 17th and 18th series, in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May got up to more motoring mischief. (R) 8.00 Return to Forgotten Britain. Part two of two. Fergal Keane revisits communities in Glasgow and Leeds, where he finds out how the areas and their residents have fared in the past 12 years. 9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and innovations include frozen cocktails, a safety product for babies, a device to stop tights falling down and an inflatable Christmas tree. Last in the series. 10.00 Harry & Paul. Highlights from the third series. Last in the series. 10.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With host Alex Horne and guests Louis Smith and Paloma Faith. (R) 11.00 I've Never Seen Star Wars. Jo Brand invites Stephen Fry to sample new cultural experiences. (R) 11.30 Snooker: UK Championship. First-round highlights on day two in York. 12.20 Snooker Extra. 2.20 BBC News. 4.00 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engle Benji. 6.10 Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) 6.25 Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) 6.35 Signed Stories. (R) 6.45 Animals. (R) 6.55 Animals. (R) 7.00 Matt Hatter Chronicles. 7.25 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.35 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.50 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.00 Big Time Rush. 8.30 Good Luck Charlie. 9.00 Good Luck Charlie. 9.25 There's No Taste Like Home. (R) 10.20 Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) 12.00 ITV News: Weather. 12.05 Live FA Cup Football. 3.00 Farewell Jack. (R) 3.30 The X Factor. (R) 5.00 The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.45 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Tommy struggles to cope with Tina's pregnancy. 8.00 The X Factor Results. The acts find out who has made it through to the final. 9.00 Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins. A cabaret show featuring the classical singer and star guests, including the Overtones and Only Boys Aloud. Actor Mark Benton takes on the role of master of ceremonies. 10.15 ITV News: Weather. 10.30 FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches. 11.30 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 10th round of fixtures. 12.25 Grimefighters. (R) 12.55 The Store: TV News Headlines. 2.55 Motorsport UK. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) 7.35 Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc. 8.05 Will & Grace. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.05 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 2.05 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 2.35 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 3.05 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 3.35 Hugh's 3 Good Things. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.10 Film: Miracle on 34th Street. (1994) 7.20 Channel 4 News. 7.50 4thought.tv. 7.55 The Political Stool. 8.00 Alien Investigations. Documentary examining alleged alien sightings from the past five years, carrying out a thorough analysis of the body of a supposed extraterrestrial infant found in Mexico. 9.00 Homeland. Brody makes an important phone call. Saul teams up with Virgil and Max to dig out information on one of their own, and Carrie prepares for a vital breakfast meeting. 10.00 Peep Show. Mark's book Business Secrets of the Pharaohs is accepted by a publisher. 10.30 British Comedy Awards Nominations Show 2012. A look ahead to this year's ceremony. 11.35 Rude Tube: Rude Zoo. A selection of the internet's funniest animal clips. (R) 12.30 Fishing for Trouble. 1.00 American Football Live. 4.45 Grudge Match. (R) 4.55 Countdown. (R) 5.40 Make Do & Mend. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Olive the Ostrich. 6.50 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Animal Antics. (R) 7.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.15 Mio Mao. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. 8.40 Rupert Bear. (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.10 Castle Farm. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jam. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. 10.35 ThunderCats. 11.10 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 11.25 The Singing Frog. 11.55 Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) 12.55 Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) 2.40 Film: Jack Frost. (1998) 4.35 News Weekend. 4.40 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) 6.30 Film: Superman II. (1980) The Man of Steel returns to take on a trio of super-powered fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve and Terence Stamp. 9.00 Film: Magnum Force. (1973) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood. 11.30 Film: Road House 2: Last Call. (2006) Action thriller sequel, starring Johnathon Schaech. 1.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 House Doctor. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
 7.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands 8.00 Gavin & Stacey - Christmas Special 9.00 Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents 10.00 Him & Her 10.30 American Dad! 11.15 Family Guy
BBC Four
 7.00 A Child's Christmases in Wales 8.00 Love Me Do: The Beatles '62 9.00 Why Poverty? Solar Mamas 10.00 Film: The Big Picture (2010) 11.50 Love Me Do: The Beatles '62
ITV2
 3.45 Take Me Out - The Gossip 4.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 5.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! Top Trials 6.50 Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) 9.00 The Xtra Factor Results 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003)
ITV3
 2.20 A Touch of Frost 4.35 Wycliffe 5.45 The Return of Sherlock Holmes 8.00 Wycliffe 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Ghostboat
ITV4
 12.30 Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. 5.15 20 Football Transfers That Shocked the World 6.10 Cheers 6.45 Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. 11.30 Film: The Thing (1982) Sci-fi horror remake, starring Kurt Russell.
E4
 3.35 New Girl 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Scrooged (1988) 10.00 Misfits 11.00 2 Broke Girls 11.30 The Big Bang Theory
Film4
 3.05 The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) 4.45 Rooster Cogburn (1975) 6.55 The Phantom (1996) 8.50 Seven Psychopaths 9.00 The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) 11.10 Pushing Tin (1999)



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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday

Duplex, BBC1, 11.20pm

A couple are overjoyed to find the home of their dreams, and do not let the matter of a little old lady living upstairs put them off. However, once they move in, she turns out to be a less than ideal neighbour, tempting them to consider resorting to murder to get rid of her. Comedy, directed by Danny DeVito and starring Drew Barrymore, Ben Stiller, Eileen Essell, Harvey Feinberg, Justin Theroux, James Remar, Robert Wisdom and Swoosie Kurtz. (2003)

Tuesday

The Enemy Below, Channel 4, 12.45pm

The captain of an American destroyer in the South Atlantic is still recovering from the sinking of his previous vessel. He tries to outwit a cunning German U-boat commander, but comes to respect the courage of his enemy. However, his crew fears he is not up to the challenge of defeating his opponent. Second World War thriller, starring Robert Mitchum, Curt Jurgens, Theodore Bikel, David Hedison, Kurt Kreuger, Frank Albertson, David Bair and Jeff Daley. (1957)

Wednesday

Untraceable, Channel 5, 10pm

An FBI agent investigates a seemingly untraceable website whose owner films himself committing murder and releases the footage online - and the more people watch, the more violent he becomes. As the agent searches for a connection between the victims, word gets out about the site, leading to a rise in its popularity and the number of increasingly horrific killings. Horror, with Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross, Mary Beth Hurt and Peter Lewis. (2008)



Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday

Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Tommy Lee Jones, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey, Patrick O'Neal, Damian Chapa, Troy Evans, David McKnight and Colm Meaney. (1992)

Friday

Basic Instinct, ITV1, 11.10pm

A hard-drinking San Francisco cop investigates the case of a man murdered with an ice-pick, but his normally well-honed intuition starts letting him down as he falls for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect, the victim's former girlfriend. Thriller from director Paul Verhoeven, starring Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, George Dzundza and Jeanne Tripplehorn. (1992)

Pick of the Week

Variety is still proving to be the spice of life

The mother of all entertainment shows is here once again, and as usual it features many different performers, each doing their thing in front of a packed audience.

If variety is the spice of your life, then this most spectacular of extravaganzas is likely to pep up Monday night's viewing no end with two-and-a-half hours of the stuff of which showbiz legends are made.

Host David Walliams welcomes our own celebrity staples Alan Carr, Amanda Holden, Bradley Walsh, Des O'Connor, Ronnie Corbett and Bruce Forsyth, along with global superstars Alicia Keys, Andrea Bocelli, Kylie Minogue, Neil Diamond, One Direction (calm yourselves girls), Plácido Domingo and Rod Stewart.

And if that's not enough to get you tuning in, how about Girls Aloud, Bill Bailey, Katherine Jenkins, Robbie Williams and the cast of West End hits Matilda and The Bodyguard?

However, the act everyone wants to see is Ashleigh and Pudsey who, of course, won their spot on the

show by winning this year's Britain's Got Talent.

If you are a fan of BGT, look out for the return of previous finalists Diversity, Spelbound, Stavros Flatley and Paul Potts.

Walliams is rather thrilled to be hosting this year's event. "It is a show that I have watched every year from a very young age, and never dreamed I would be one day be a part of it," he enthuses.

Those lucky enough to have been backstage at one of these bashes will know how much time and effort goes into its preparation.

In 1996, one fresh-faced journalist spent seven hours waiting backstage during the dress rehearsal for the celebrities to turn up for a chat.

You were allowed to go to the loo of course, but hanging around at the back of the Dominion Theatre and watching host Bob Monkhouse was a no-no. However, by the time the likes of Tom Jones, the much-missed Jill Dando and Robson and Jerome turned up, all those hours of waiting paid off.

Now, 16 years on, the show is celebrating its 100th birthday, so the tension backstage will be greater than ever as the talent and the tech team give 110 per cent to ensure the night goes off without a hitch.

Most of the acts on this year's show will have rehearsed their act to death to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Just a pity Dallas veteran Larry Hagman didn't try a little harder during a song at his Royal Variety in 1980. Having forgotten the words, he hummed along and then stopped the orchestra. "Well, I blew it," he grinned. "Well, there you go."

It scarcely mattered. Even the Queen was curious to find out who shot his beloved alter ego JR.

Last year Barry Manilow had problems with a backing track, but by the time the final show was screened for TV viewers, any problems had been edited out.

With a little luck, any wrinkles in this year's bash will be ironed out at the dress rehearsal. Let's hope everything is all right on the night.



David Walliams hosts The Royal Variety Performance, Monday, ITV1, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

Inside Claridge's BBC2, 9pm

It's been the subject of many a film, is a home-from-home for the royals, and the celebs simply aren't A-list enough if they're not frequenting the luxurious high-ceilinged venue, but Claridge's is finally opening its door to mere mortals - well, in the form of a fly-on-the-wall documentary at least. This is the first time anything like this has been done in the hotel's 200-year history, but it is a rather fitting way to mark the milestone birthday. Claridge's regal associations were confirmed as far back as 1860, and since then, it has become known as an 'extension to Buckingham Palace'. But what of the elite who regularly stay at the hotel? Director Jane Treays lets us in on their secrets...

Tuesday

Murder Files: The Haircut Killer Channel 5, 8pm

Channel 5 has broadcast more than its fair share of crime documentaries over the years, but few have been as upsetting as this one. It focuses on the story of Danilo Restivo, dubbed 'The Haircut Killer', because of his fetish for cutting women's hair - as well as their throats. In June 2011, he was convicted of the murder of Heather Barnett, who lived in Bournemouth with her two children - sadly it was Heather's offspring who discovered their mother's body when they returned home from school. Daughter Caitlin describes the horror she and her brother were confronted with, while Heather's sister Denise also discusses the incriminating evidence found at the scene.

Last Tango in Halifax

BBC1, 9pm

Although Celia and Alan are clearly crazy about each other and desperate to tie the knot so they can spend the rest of their lives together, even they have arguments from time to time. It seems a major confrontation could be brewing when they not only fall out about their differing political views, they also disagree about where their marriage should take place. Meanwhile, Gillian makes a nuisance of herself by telling John he needs to stick up for himself more - but when he appears on Caroline's doorstep announcing he's moving back in, she isn't best pleased.

Wednesday

The Town

ITV1, 9pm

Andrew Scott is probably best known for being Moriarty to Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock, but can he outwit Miss Marple? Maybe we'll find out in this promising three-part drama, which sees Scott starring alongside Julia McKenzie and Martin Clunes. It follows Mark (Scott), an architect who returns to his hometown in the wake of a family tragedy, only to find that a lot has changed while he's been gone. If it makes him feel any better, he's not the only one who's struggling. Hard-drinking local mayor Len (Clunes) is lurking from one PR disaster to another - and what exactly is linking enigmatic cop Inspector Franks (Douglas Hodge) to Mark's family?

Thursday

Jamie & Jimmy's Food Fight Club Channel 4, 9pm

Let's face it, we Brits don't have the best reputation when it comes to culinary expertise. But old pals Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are determined to change all that via this new series. Each week, they will focus on a different type of food, then travel the UK in search of the best examples. But it's after that that the fun really begins. Jamie and Jimmy will then set off for the European mainland to do battle with their counterparts in France, Germany or Italy to discover whether British nosh can hold its own abroad - or whether we really do lag behind in the flavour stakes. Expect to see some A-list celebrities and audience participation along the way too.

Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm

Originally set to be broadcast on October 24, but pushed back because of the start of Michael Palin's Brazil series, here's a chance at last to see John Bishop delving into his family's past. Although his accent gives away the fact he was born and bred on Merseyside, his family ties lie elsewhere in a variety of rather colourful characters. Among them are an army band member, a

lay vicar and a Crimean War fighter. Bishop also travels to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to find out what may have happened to one of his relatives who served in the Navy during the Victorian era.

Friday

Peter Kay - In Conversation Channel 4, 9pm

There was a time when the words 'garlic bread' and 'cheesecake' would not bring a smile to the face, but Peter Kay changed all that. Within a few years, the roly-poly funnyman went from being a warm-up act for Michael Parkinson's chat show to being a main attraction in front of the camera. In this new one-off show, Kay chats to Danny Baker about his phenomenally successful career. His last UK tour entered the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest stand-up comedy tour in the world, but what is it that makes him tick? Here he reveals for the first time the creative process behind his work, giving a rare insight into his TV series and live comedy.

The Graham Norton Show

BBC1, 10.35pm

Jessica Ennis may have the sort of abs and figure usually reserved for comic books, but her achievement at London 2012 was no fantasy. So expect the audience to go wild this week as the pride of Sheffield, and indeed the whole of the UK, drops into the studio for a chat. Daniel Radcliffe might look bashful in her presence, but he hasn't had a bad year either. Okay, the Harry Potter saga may now be consigned to history, but he proved he still had plenty of commercial clout when The Woman in Black grossed \$127million worldwide.

The Town, Wednesday, ITV1, 9pm

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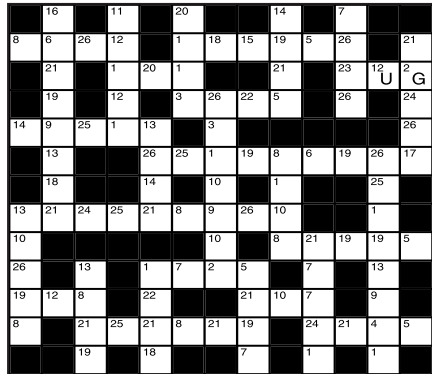
What's On!

Brain Gym

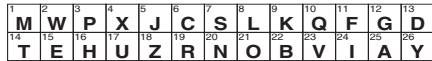
No.197

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
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OUT NOW!

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Swift seller (3,4)
- He refuses to settle (5)
- The time in which the race was run (3)
- Capital charge not dealt with in lower courts? (5,4)
- Wrong way to make wealth! (5,3,3)
- Raiment last altered for an old language teacher (5,6)
- It is clear in composition, and practical (9)
- Not against the professional (3)
- One is upset by such a din (5)
- Quite different people have it in common (7)

Down

- Get on a governing body (5)
- Express service unit (3)
- Bound to leave something out (4)
- Concerted movement put something on a firm basis (9)
- He may be involved in a row (7)
- New arrivals, we hear, at the docks (6)
- Useless as a costermonger without stock (9)
- Not quite out of St. Malo (6)
- Be fond of and look after (4,3)
- Stadium takes an age to erect (5)
- Might be in or even out (4)
- Reserved for the cast (3)

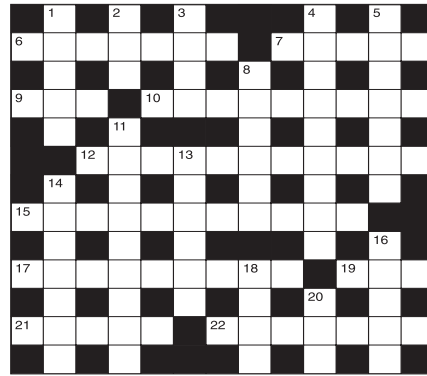
Quick Clues:

Across

- Expedite (7)
- Exclude (5)
- Ancient (3)
- Make thin (9)
- Submissive (11)
- Counsel (11)
- Fellowship (9)
- Badly (3)
- Oneness (5)
- Exult (7)

Down

- Cunning (5)
- Deed (3)
- Enthusiasm (4)
- Subtraction (9)
- Incomplete (7)
- Forsake (6)
- Ugliness (9)
- Lengthen (6)
- Interpret (7)
- Lax (5)
- Finished (4)
- Pledge (3)



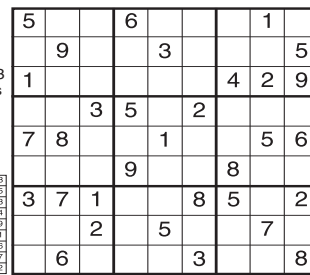
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Administrator; 8 Housetop; 9 Ally; 10 Patent; 12 Aways; 14 Hereto; 16 Stress; 18 Flag; 20 Back-door; 22 Singing-master. Down: 1 Advocate; 2 Tissue; 3 Hilt; 4 Stop-gaps; 5 Canada; 6 Pool; 11 Trombone; 13 Discover; 15 Engage; 17 Radish; 19 Laid; 21 Comb. QUICK - Across: 7 Expostulation; 8 Shortens; 9 Aver; 10 Annex; 12 Finish; 14 Repeat; 16 Listen; 18 Show; 20 Narcotic; 22 Encyclopaedia. Down: 1 Exchange; 2 Course; 3 Style; 4 Blissful; 5 Strain; 6 Lone; 11 Entangle; 13 Specific; 15 Always; 17 Stolen; 19 Hang; 21 Ripe.

Sudoku

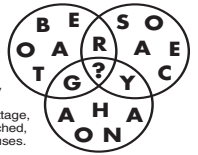
Fill in the grid below so that every row, every column, every 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is C. Cottage, terraced, detached, all types of houses.

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Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 5SP

COMMUNITY SESSIONS

FRENCH

New Beginners course starts:
Thurs. 7th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 7 wks. £36.20 #

CREATIVE WRITING Mon 14th Jan. 19.00-21.00. OR
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £25.80 #

INTRO TO SIGN LANGUAGE
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 10 wks. £51.60 #

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY
Tues 15th Jan 9.30-11.30 OR Mon 25th Feb. 13.30-15.30.
Both 5 wks. £42.40 # Cons. £33.30 and £11

CONTINUING FAMILY HISTORY
Mon 14th Jan. 13.30-15.30 OR Tues 26th Feb. 9.30-11.30.
Both 5 wks. £36.40 #

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE Wed 16th Jan.
14.30-16.30 OR Thurs 17th Jan. 19.00-21.00. Both 7 wks. £51.00 #

ADVANCED WEBSITE EDITING **Short N'Sweet**
Must have completed 'Create your own website course'
Wed 13th Feb. 14.30-16.30 OR Thurs 14th Feb 19.00-21.00.
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL IMAGING
USING PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS Mon 7th Jan. 9.30-11.30 OR
Tues 19th Feb. 13.30-15.30. Both 6 wks. £43.70 #

CONTINUING DIGITAL IMAGING USING
PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS Tues 8th Jan. 13.30-15.30 OR Mon
18th Feb. 9.30-11.30. Both 6 wks. £43.70 #

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS
Mon 28th Jan. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £21.90 # **Short N'Sweet**

DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS **Short N'Sweet**
Mon 11th Mar. 14.30-16.30, 3 wks. £21.90 #

PAINTING AND DRAWING suitable for all levels
Tues 8th Jan. 19.00- 21.00, 11 wks. £56.75 #
Wed 9th Jan. 9.30- 11.30, 11 wks. £56.75 #
Thurs 10th Jan. 9.30- 12.00, 11 wks. £71.00 #
Thurs 10th Jan. 13.30- 15.30, 11 wks. £56.75 #

CANAL ART: ROSES AND CASTLES
Tues. 5th Feb. 11.00-13.00 OR Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00
Both 5 wks. £25.80 #

BLACK COUNTRY CRAFTS **Short N'Sweet**
Thurs 31st Jan. 19.00-21.00. OR Mon. 11th Mar. 9.30-11.30
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

JEWELLERY MAKING **Short N'Sweet**
Mon. 28th Jan. 9.30-11.30 OR Thurs 14th Mar. 19.00-21.00
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

Short N'Sweet **AN INTRODUCTION TO NAIL ART**
Wed 23rd Jan OR Wed 6th Mar Both 12.30-14.00. 4 wks. £21.90 #

FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS
Mon 28th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £37.00 Cons. £29.25 and £11

PATCHWORK AND EMBROIDERY suitable for all levels
Tues 15th Jan. OR Tues 26th Feb. Both 19.00-21.00. 5 wks
£26.70 #

PATCHWORK Wed 9th Jan. 14.30-16.30. 11 wks. £56.80 #

UPHOLSTERY AND SOFT FURNISHING suitable for all levels
Wed. 9th Jan. 12.00-14.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #
Mon 14th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks £25.80 #
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks £25.80 #

NEEDLE FELT Tues 5th Feb. 9.30-11.30 or Thurs 7th
Feb. 19.00-21.00, 6 wks. £31.00.

PLAY THE GUITAR **New Beginners course starts:**
Thurs 7th Feb. 20.00-21.00, 7 wks. £25.50 #
Cont. Beginners: Thurs 10th Jan 19.00-20.00 11 wks. £40.40 #
Improvers: Tues 8th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #
Intermediates: Mon 7th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #

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Short N'Sweet

REFLEXOLOGY
Tues 12th Mar. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

AROMATHERAPY
Tues. 22nd Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE
Tues 12th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

MEDITATION Thurs 31st Jan. OR Thurs 7th Mar
19.00-20.30 Both 4 wks. £21.90 #

FITNESS YOGA @ Oakfield **Short N'Sweet**
Fri 11th Jan. 11.15-12.30. 5 wks. £26.80 #

FITNESS GLIDING @ Oakfield **Short N'Sweet**
Fri 15th Feb 11.15-12.15. 6 wks. £25.90 #

PILATES

Beginners: Thurs 10th Jan 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.35 #
Beg. @ Oakfield: Fri 11th Jan. 10.00-11.00, 10 wks. £36.40 #
Improvers: Tues 8th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £33.35
Improvers: Wed 9th Jan. 18.30-19.30, 11 wks. £33.35
Improvers: Thurs 10th Jan. 19.05-20.05, 11 wks. £33.35
Improvers: Thurs 10th Jan. 20.10-21.10, 11 wks. £33.35

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Tues 8th Jan. 20.05-21.05, 11 wks. £33.35

BALLROOM and LATIN AMERICAN DANCING
All classes start Mon 7th Jan. for 11 wks. Beginners 18:30-19.30,
£36.10. Improvers/ Intermediates 19.30-20.45, £45.10

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

All courses begin Mon 7th Jan. for 11 wks. £33.40.
Beginners: 19.00-19.45. Improvers: 19.45-20.30.
Intermediates: 20.30-21.15

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

In a group of 2 or 1 to 1. Contact the office for further details

RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

18th Feb 2013, 8th Apr 2013, 29th July OR 5th August 2013.
All 8.30-17.00. 6 days. £173.75 plus additional fees £78.75

RLSS NATIONAL RESCUE TEST for SWIMMING
TEACHERS/COACHES 1 day retake; Mon 22nd July 2013
subject to previous qualification and training £36.90, add. fees
£26.95. Full course: Tues 23rd July and Wed 24th July 2013,
8.30-16.00, £57.80, add. fees £26.95.

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Mon 7th Jan. OR Mon 17th June 2013 Both 9.00-12.00 £18.40

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Sat 9th Feb. OR Fri. 22nd Mar. Both 09.00-13.00. 1/2 day £24.55

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COMPUTERS Mon 13th May 19.00-20.30. 6 wks. £43.70 #

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Tues. 7th May 19.00-20.30. 6 wks. £43.70 #

ADULT SWIMMING: Mon. 11.50-12.35, Tues. 19.00-20.00,
Thurs. 19.00-20.15. All £2.60

AQUAFIT: Tues. 12.40-13.20, Fri. 11.50-12.35. £2.60.
Wed. 19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £3.70

FITNESS SWIM Mon. 18.00-18.45. £1.60
for young people 10-19 yrs old

Community programme starts 7th Jan
No sessions 17th Dec to 6th Jan. inc.
For further information call 07963 986672
OR e-mail: 141communitygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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on electric or acoustic guitar and
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Beginners: Mon 7th Jan. 6 wks.
16.45-17.45 OR 17.45-18.45.
£52.50

Intermediates: Thurs 10th Jan..
17.45-18.45. 11 wks. £48.40



LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

TERM DATES : Mon 7th Jan.-Thurs 28th Mar. 2013 excluding
Mon 18th Feb. to Sun 24th Feb. 2012. Mon to Thurs 11 wks. Fri
Sat, Sun 10wks

	10 WKS	11 WKS
COST: First Steps, Pre Beg. Beg. Improve.	£41.00	£45.10
Intermediates 1, 2 and 3	£35.50	£39.05
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front stroke and 5m back crawl.

Improver: Improves aquatic skills and stamina to swim 15m on a front stroke
and 15m back crawl.

Intermediate 1: Develops confidence in deep water and front crawl breathing
action to swim 20 meters on a front stroke and 20m back crawl.

Intermediate 2: Helps to build stamina and endurance to swim 50m on a front
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Intermediate 3: Develops competence on all four strokes (25m) and a front and
back stroke for 100m.

Water Skills: To develop survival and rescue skills.

Rookie Lifeguard: Learn new skills, have fun and overcome challenges. Min.
age 9 years. Must be able to swim 20 m on a front stroke and 20 m on a back
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Top guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge



An extensive patio is the key feature of this neat rear garden

Cul-de-sac location for dormer-style property



The property in Ingatestone Drive, has a carport leading to its garage



The lounge – 17ft 1in by 10ft 8in – has an electric fire with surround

A DORMER-STYLE family home in a sought-after cul-de-sac just off Cot Lane in Wordsley is for sale with a price tag of £244,950.

Described by agents as beautifully appointed and immaculately presented, the accommodation includes two separate reception rooms and three good sized first floor bedrooms.

Set back behind a front garden with a large block paved driveway with a carport and garage, the house – in Ingatestone Drive – also has a landscaped rear garden with open aspect.

It is well placed for local amenities in Wordsley and Kingswinford, including a good selection of shops, local schooling, regular public transport services and King George Park.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a white suite of WC and vanity unit with inset wash basin while the lounge – 17ft 1in by 10ft 8in – has an electric fire with feature surround, and the separate dining room is 12ft 10in by 7ft 10in.

The re-fitted kitchen, 9ft 8in by 8ft 9in, has a range of units with roll edge work surfaces, sink drainer with mixer tap, recess for cooker, integrated dishwasher and fridge/freezer and wall mounted cupboards.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom with panelled bath with shower, pedestal wash basin and WC.

Outside is a carport to the garage and door to a utility room with plumbing for automatic washing machine and recess for fridge and freezer, while the rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn, child's climbing frame/play area and timber shed.

Call Taylors on 01384 395555 for details.

Three-bedroom semi is on the market for offers over £175,000

PRICED to sell at offers over £175,000, this extended and improved semi-detached house is in Dumbleberry Avenue, Sedgley.

With uPVC double glazing and gas central heating and cavity wall insulation, the property offers deceptively spacious accommodation.

On the ground floor the lounge has a feature fireplace with electric fire. The sitting room also has a feature fireplace with electric fire and patio window to a conservatory.

The kitchen has base and wall cupboards, work surfaces, gas oven and hob, integrated fridge and dishwasher and breakfast bar.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, the L-shaped bedroom three having a shower area with corner cubicle, WC and wash hand basin, and there is a bathroom with P-shaped bath with shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

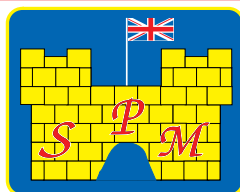
The garage has plumbing for a washing machine and vent for tumble dryer.

There is a paved driveway and parking area, and gardens to the front and rear.

Call Wakeman on 01902 885894.



The extended semi in Dumbleberry Avenue, Sedgley, is on the market



Select

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WORDSLEY NEW CHAPEL STREET £445 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage	WORDSLEY NEW LAWNSWOOD ROAD £610 pcm Terraced Cottage, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden	WOMBOURNE NEW SWINFORD LEYS £650 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens	PENSNETT NEW THE POPLARS, 70 HIGH STREET £425 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished
GORNAL NEW HIMLEY ROAD £675 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Single Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.	ROWLEY REGIS NEW TITFORD LANE £345 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished	KINVER NEW SPRING CLOSE £475 pcm Apartment, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	DUDLEY NEW DONNINGTON COURT £550 pcm Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking
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PENSNETT HIGH STREET £550 pcm Semi Detached Property, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished	GORNAL CENTRAL DRIVE £550 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished	LOWER GORNAL MOUNT CLOSE £625 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking	KINGSWINFORD LABURNUM ROAD £460 pcm End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden.

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MY NAME IS HELEN
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New Skoda Rapid is practical and a great performer

Look hard at the front of the new Skoda Rapid and what does it remind you of?

Is it a simply styled, modern looking car or a lucky four-leafed clover, thanks to the way the head and fog lights are positioned?

If you're a car buyer, it may be the first description; if a designer of the newcomer from the Czech Republic, it will be the second.

You may conclude from this divide that car designers live on another planet (the rear lights are inspired by the Czech glass industry, apparently), but you can't doubt the passion that went into shaping this mid-price family car.

The Rapid is designed (very thoroughly) to sit above the smaller Fabia and below the larger Octavia, a car that's going to grow in size and stature when the next one arrives some time in 2013.

It majors on practicality, with enough room in the rear for adults to feel comfortable and a simply huge boot hidden nicely in a shape that looks somewhere between practical hatch and posher saloon at the back.

By Ian Donaldson

Underneath are familiar bits of suspension from other cars in the VW Group and under the bonnet you'll discover a choice of diesel and petrol engines also shared with cars bearing VW, Seat and Audi badges.

The result of this hidden commonality is twofold; it means the use of mechanical bits built in huge numbers and therefore honed for business and, thanks to economies of scale, relatively inexpensive to make.

That means, in Skoda's case perhaps especially, that you get a lot of car for your money. The new Rapid starts at £12,900 but you fancy most buyers will find the near £1,000 needed to climb to SE grade, bringing with it alloy wheels, air conditioning and trip computer missing from the bargain basement S version.

That means the £14,650, 1.2 litre petrol engine car tested here, third from bottom in a price range that levels off with the £17,850 of the 1.6 diesel Elegance model, does not feel remotely like a car bought on price alone.

One Skoda person at the launch of the car (definitely not a designer) said customers 'have had enough of this shiny, bling, bling stuff.' The Rapid is low on bling but high on a feeling, shared across the VW Group cars, that solid quality matters most for long-term satisfaction.

If the outside of the Rapid is crisp and modern in a low-key way, the interior is simple, with obvious attention to detail, easily read instruments but not a bit of bling to be seen. You may well think that's a good thing.

Easy. A much dearer diesel model tried before the petrol powered car tested here certainly made for an easy drive, with fewer gear changes and a creditable 64mpg on the trip computer at journey's end.

The smaller petrol engine tested here needed more revs and returned 47mpg (and promised 114mph and 0-62mph in 11.2 seconds) but still felt a much bigger unit than the spec sheet indicated. Sweet and willing around town, it pulled this largish car along the motorway without breaking sweat.

The diesel rode the side road ripples



The new Skoda Rapid. Prices range from £12,900 to £17,850

better than the lighter petrol model, but not enough to matter, while the petrol engine version tackled corners with a bit more enthusiasm.

Standard spec on the SE here includes the air con and alloys already mentioned, along with heated door mirrors, electric front windows and height-adjustable driver's seat.

And every Rapid shows one design touch: a plastic ice scraper hidden in the fuel filler flap. Practical as well as clever.

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So tough to release Perry – Pearson

DUDLEY HEATHENS chairman Nigel Pearson has told how hard it was to leave fans' favourite Tom Perry out of plans.

Ashley Morris is confirmed as captain and No.1 and Albrighton speedster Perry is a victim of his own success with a 9.88 average.

There was no practical way both could be retained without severely weakening the team elsewhere.

Pearson said: "It's been a nightmare and something I haven't enjoyed. The phone call with Tom was dreadful, it was the hardest thing I've done in the three seasons."

"Chris Van Straaten, Gary Patchett and myself spent all weekend thinking about this and reluctantly we felt we would be too top-heavy with Ash and Tom in the same team."

"The only reason Tom was the one to go was because of his 9.88 average."

"There is no other reason. And we're looking forward to working with Ash again."

"We would like to take both Ash and Tom into the Premier League with us when the time is right – hopefully that will be this time next year."

Captain can win to stop whitewash

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club seconds found themselves over-matched at home to a strong Wolverhampton team in Birmingham League Division Three.

Stourbridge were outgraded on every board as Wolverhampton led 5-0.

Team captain Eric Horwill on board one can prevent the whitewash. He adjourned in a favourable position against a much higher-graded opponent and could pull off an upset.

The B team in Wolverhampton Division Two had better fortune, winning away to Rushall 4.5-1.5.

This welcome success was their first win of the season. They need a few more victories yet to stay clear of relegation.

Anyone interested in playing for Stourbridge or who would just like to improve their game, should call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more information about the club.

Away victory keeps leaders a point ahead

KINVER CONSTITUTIONAL A held on to their one-point lead at the top of the Stourbridge and District Snooker League Premier Division with a 4-1 victory on the tables of Hot Shots SC of Langley.

Jason Hickman and Chris Jones gave a perfect start and, although David Konior hit back, Jason Oakes and Andrew Highfield, completed the win.

Brierley Hill Sports Bar A followed maximum points at Snooks B with a 4-1 win at home to their C team. John Pritchett set a new high-break target of 86, while Callum Downing had runs of 65 and 50, Luke Garland a 48 and

Russ Edwards completed a fine win after Jon Bate had lost on the black against Neil Gennard.

Sharing second place are Norton Social A, who took maximum points against Stourbridge Institute A, one of last season's promoted teams.

Paul Garbett went closest for the Institute as Rob Pitt needed a 49 break to take the final frame.

Norton and Brierley Hill have a match in hand on the leaders and reigning champions, Kinver.

The other promoted team, Pockets SC B, continue to struggle with only Bob Moran taking a frame at home to Snooks SC.

Snooker

West Midlands Police may still stake a claim to the title and won a tight match with Pockets SC A 4-1 to share fourth place with their Kidderminster-based opponents, eight points off the lead.

Pete Gibbons, on the black, Maria Catalano, Kev Franklin – still unbeaten – and Gavin Sloan, with a 41 clearance to the pink, were on target for the Police.

Highly-promising 15-year-old Tom Pepperall gave Pockets a fine start by potting the black to hand Neil Marshall a rare defeat.

First Division leaders Kingswinford RBL A, at Kingswinford Snooker Centre, saw Tim Carter and John Cowan give the home team a dream start but they hit back through Anthony Davies and Gregg Reece before Andrew Brown took the decider for Legion.

He thwarted a recovery from 40 behind by Paul Ross to retain his unbeaten record, and open up a four-point advantage at the top.

Barry Young, Steve Ball & Rob Boylin combined to give Amblecote RBL a 3-2 win against Kingswinford Cons A, lifting them to a share of second place, with a game in hand of their two nearest rivals.

Amblecote Institute B won 4-1 victory at home to Stourbridge Institute B after Tom Hamilton gave Stourbridge a good start.

Matt Johnson and Adam Coley gave the edge to Amblecote, whose Mitch Skidmore and Mick Cook, saw both their opponents go in-off the final black.

Netherton Sports & Social's Steve Howell, Richard Barnsley & Carl Webb got a 3-2 win at Wombourne, but Brierley Hill Sports Bar D lost 3-2 at home to Norton Social B.

Kinver Constitutional B beat their C team 3-2 thanks to Chris Randle, Ron Smith and Robin Hall.

Confident team show ends with goal storm

Halesowen Town Colts U11 0

Stourbridge Juniors U11 14

THIS fine all-round team performance came from a side showing great confidence with every game.

Callum Lawton hit four goals, while there were hat-tricks for Mitchell Harrison and James Thompson.

Luke Owen and Jordan Edwards scored two each.

Dudley Dynamos U13 4

Stourbridge U13 3

A top of the league clash between two sides separated only by goal difference saw Stourbridge surrender a 3-1 lead and lose to a late goal.

Nathaniel Connon put them ahead and Brooke Price got a second before Dudley pulled a goal back just before half-time.

In the second half Connon was brought down and Price scored the penalty but Dudley scored a penalty and levelled from a free-kick.

Minutes from the end, Stourbridge failed to clear and conceded the winner.

Stourbridge U14A 2

Lutterworth U14 3

Three second-half goals wiped out Stourbridge's advantage.

Stourbridge's Alex Lowe created space for wide players to exploit and after 20 minutes Jonny Hooper crossed for Lowe to net.

Owen Taylor brought saves with shots from range, but there were no further goals until 10 minutes into the second half.

Ross Pritchard released Hooper whose cross was side-footed in by Sam Cinnamon.

After 20 minutes of the half a misjudged clearance saw a Lutterworth forward produce a calm finish.

Lutterworth began to dominate and a half-clearance saw a smashed home before their late winner.

Nuneaton U15 2

Stourbridge U15A 1

Stourbridge had the best of the first half against unbeaten Nuneaton, but could not find the net.

The second period saw Nuneaton hit their stride, but Stour caught them on the break with Jordan Siviter slotting home low at the keeper's near post.

But the home side scored twice in the final 20 minutes to take the win.

Netherton Colts West U16 2

Stourbridge U16 5

Four-goal Liam Kendrick inspired Stourbridge to stay in top spot.

Skipper Greg Corbett bagged the other goal.

Result: Hinchley U16 3 Stourbridge U16A 2

Lions ready to roar on after super run of form

STOURBRIDGE LIONS go roaring into their Midlands Senior Vase quarter-final on Saturday on the back of a super run of form.

Stourbridge, who won the competition last year with a nailbiting four-point final success over Earlsdon, host Kesteven at Stourton Park on Saturday (3.20pm).

Lions skipper Stuart Doolittle expects a tough encounter despite his side winning eight of their last 10 matches in all competitions.

"We all understand how hard our next couple of games are going to be, especially the cup," he said.

"Last year we were lucky enough to have home quarter, semi and final games; the support we received was outstanding and made a massive difference."

"We have received great support from the Saxons on the training pitch in the form of joint training sessions."

Massive

"As the Saxons have a well-earned rest this weekend, we hope that we will get a lot of support for this massive game."

Director of rugby Ian Strangward said: "Kesteven are unbeaten in their league this season and will provide our sternest challenge so far."

"As with last season, though, the team spirit that is embedded in the Lions means that in a 'one-off' game, form and league position is irrelevant."

"On their day, this team of young, largely home-grown players can beat any team in

Stourbridge Lions

this competition. Our coaching team this season have benefitted greatly from the experience of John Tibbetts, former first team player for both Saxons and Lions, while several senior players have also stepped up to help coach the back division.

"Our adventurous game plan this season has seen a dramatic increase in the number of tries scored with the team currently averaging four tries per game."

The Lions reached the last eight with a 22-15 win at Old Wheatleyans.

First-half scores from Doolittle, wing Aaron Boffey and prop James Owen put them in control, but the game was not over until a brilliant tackle from young Nick Mann stopped Old Wheatleyans' last roll of the dice inches short of the line.

The previous rounds saw an away win against Ledbury and a home success against Woodrush.

Admission on Saturday is free but lunch is also available for £12.50 per person.

Details are available by calling 01384 345997 or emailing rugby@stourbridgerugby.com



Flashback to last season with joy at the final whistle after Stourbridge Lions beat Earlsdon 25-21 to win the Vase

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Big game
Lions get set for
crucial quarter-final
Page 35



Hot shots
Kinver hold on
in snooker league
Page 35

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Yeltz are back into league's top seven

Halesowen Town 3 Northwich Victoria 1
A THIRD consecutive league win got Halesowen back into the top seven of the Evo-Stik League First Division South.

The first chance fell to crisis-club Northwich in an 11th-minute scramble, but Matt Walwyn sliced his shot wide of goal.

Halesowen acclimatised to sudden conditions and forced three successive corners in the 18th minute, keeper Ryan Robinson beating out Jean-Michel Gueyès' low header.

They took a lead on 23 minutes as defender Gavin Winsper glanced home his first Halesowen goal with a header from Nathaniel Caines' corner.

Six minutes before the break Northwich were reduced to 10 men when Michael Connor got a straight red card for fouling Tom Warner and then squaring up to him.

Two minutes into the second half, Northwich levelled when the home defence switched off for Matt Walwyn to hit home a loose ball.

But Naveed Arshad restored Halesowen's lead on 57 minutes, sliding a shot home beyond Robinson from a tight angle.

In the final minute of normal time there was a scare for the Yeltz when Northwich sub Djeny Bembo-Leta clipped the bar from 20 yards.

But the home side sealed it in injury time as Northwich keeper Robinson charged upfield for a corner. Ben Haseley broke away and set up Gueyès to tap in.

Ladies take sixth place

STOURBRIDGE Running Club's ladies' team finished sixth in Division Two in the latest race of the North Staffordshire Cross-Country league season.

Their first runner home at Clarke Common was Joan Clarke in 26min 29sec. Natalie Dellar clocked 29:41 and Zoe Yeomans 31:36.

Duncan Cornish led the way for the men's team, who were 14th in Division Two.

He crossed the line in 44:46 with Mike Anslow clocking 46:29 and Colin Downey posting a time of 55:45.

Final race in the four-event league is on December 8 at Westwood High, Leek.

Ten-man Glassboys go close to unlikely victory

GARY HACKETT'S side nearly won despite playing about 70 minutes with 10 men.

Paul Lloyd was red-carded in the first half, but Gosport also ended the Evo-Stik Southern Premier clash a man short as young full-back Dan Woodward got a second caution shortly before the final whistle.

Stourbridge made most of the early running as Luke Benbow had two chances in the opening 12 minutes, but was denied on both occasions by keeper Nathan Ashmore.

In the 10th minute a kick forward from Lewis Solly was headed on by Ben Billingham for Benbow to chase, but his low shot was blocked by Ashmore's legs.

Stourbridge 1 Gosport Borough 1

Two minutes later a low angled drive was also blocked by the keeper. Stourbridge had a let-off in the 18th minute as a cross from Sammy Igoe fell to Justin Bennett.

He appeared in two minds over controlling the ball or hitting it first time and turned the ball wide of the post.

Four minutes later the Glassboys were down to 10 men as Lloyd reacted to a clumsy aerial challenge by Jamie Brown by flicking out at the Gosport striker. Although at a numerical disadvantage the home side continued well for the remainder of the half.

A minute after the restart Drew Canavan threaded a pass to Benbow who drove over.

On 49 minutes Gosport's Brown sent over a cross and Thomas Dunford passed to Bennett whose shot was blocked by Solly.

In the 50th minute Billingham combined with Benbow with the striker touching back into the path of Billingham to hit a curling low shot that drew a good save.

Six minutes later, though, the Glassboys deservedly grabbed the lead. A great ball from Gavin Hurren from half-way was chested down well by Benbow who then

neatly tucked away a low shot inside Ashmore's right-hand upright.

With tiring legs, the game was really opening up but with 15 minutes to go Stourbridge were caught out by a sudden counter that saw a long ball played forward and Bennett managed to get in behind Leon Broadhurst. He accelerated away before beating Solly with a low shot.

In an exciting finish Nathan Bennett headed inches over from a left-wing Sean Geddes flag-kick on 83 minutes.

Just before the end Gosport were down to 10 men after a foul on Canavan resulting in Woodward collecting his second caution.

Britt and Becki get five golds

TWO Stourbridge Swimming Club members brought back gold from an international tournament.

Britt Horton and Becki Cole took five golds between them representing England in the WISE international championships at Sunderland.

Horton, in her first international competition, won her individual 100m backstroke age group event and was part of the winning medley relay team.

Cole took three golds – 100m individual backstroke, freestyle relay and medley relay.

Club head coach Stew Nicklin said: "This is a fantastic achievement. From the 42-strong England team only three were selected from the West Midlands area and two of those were Stourbridge swimmers."

"This shows the incredible talent we have within this club, to reach such a prestigious swimming level and come away with gold medals."

Fullwell finishes in the top 60

STOURBRIDGE darter Nick Fullwell has finished 60th in the PDC Pro Tour Order of Merit.

He went out in the first round on Saturday, the first of two tournaments at the Barnsley Metrodome.

Fullwell went down 6-3 to Peter Hudson, but the Stourbridge darter made it to the second round next day – the final tour event of the season.

Fullwell beat John Scott 6-0 but was whitewashed himself by reigning UK Open champion Robert Thornton. His 60th place earned him £6,000.

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RECORD BROKEN BY SOARAWAY SAXONS

Stourbridge Saxons 27 Hull Ionians 15
STOURBRIDGE SAXONS produced their best first-half performance of the season to set a club record and blow away the team lying second in National League Two North.

Despite a heavy pitch, greasy ball and early loss of linchpin Caolan Ryan to the sinbin, outstanding attacking rugby saw the three-quarters run in five tries in a 13th consecutive league win bettering a club record standing since 1998.

Each victory has been accompanied by a four-try bonus point – a rare feat in the National Leagues.

Ionians hit back with a late first-half try but as the rain got worse and the pitch cut up, Saxons' gritty second-half defence saw them defend the lead in comfort to the final whistle.

They scored after barely 30 seconds of play as Gary Dipple recovered a high Ryan kick behind advancing defenders and fed Nathan Bressington. He put Sam Baker clear down the right touchline, his inside pass gifting Pete White the try.

Penalties

Ionians hit straight back with a penalty from Stourton Park old boy Chris Reakes after Ryan saw yellow for a goal-line infringement in defence.

With Ionians starting to cough up defensive penalties of their own, the Saxons got their attacking maul into gear, enabling Will Hurrell to barge over once the defenders were sucked in.

A big Nigel Mukarati tackle caused a turnover.

Mark George moved the ball left where James Rodley's delayed pass put Jamie Hearn clear to score.

Ionians lost a man to the sinbin for illegally stopping a Saxons maul. The bonus-point fourth try was secured

Stourbridge Saxons

on the half-hour as an offload by man-of-the-match Ben Hughes let Dipple side-step a final defender.

Will Hurrell bagged his second try with a run in from halfway after Ionians failed to gather a clearance kick.

With natural light fading and conditions deteriorating, the Saxons acceded to a request by the match officials to change into their away strip at half-time.

Saxons, content to kick the ball into the Ionians' 22m area and let them play catch-up in the rain, displayed solid defence and discipline to hold on despite Ionians' excellent ball retention in long passages of play.

The visitors' only other score was a try from a driving maul on the hour.

Coach Mike Umaga said: "With the half-time lead and the weather worsening, we didn't want to try anything fancy so we kicked to the corners and trusted our defence."

"The team deserve credit for a very composed second-half performance under a lot of pressure. Ionians showed a good attacking skill set but we were pretty sharp ourselves before the break."



Gary Dipple outstrips a defender to score



Pete White on the attack with Tom Brown in support for Saxons



Jamie Hearn collects a James Rodley pass for the third try



Two-try scorer Will Hurrell gets his pass away

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